

networks on other library cooperatives or on member library organization, character set limitations, formats for nonbook materials, the potentially significant FEDLINK data base planning projects, and the networking activities of the National Agricultural Library and the National Library of Medicine are among the topics which are either omitted or treated in a perfunctory manner. Less serious, but annoying, are the use of abbreviations in the text, minor factual errors (TYMNET is more than a "teletypewriter communications link"; the Smithsonian Institution is not in Maryland), and obvious lapses in proofreading (e.g., "loan" for "load" on page 5; repeat of "are" on page 29).

The publication is spiral-bound, soft-cover, and reproduced by photo-offset although not always carefully typed. With the exception of several necessarily costly works on printing, and other publications from Knowledge Industry Publications, this publication has by far the highest per-page cost of any title to be reviewed in *College & Research Libraries*, even if the 38-page "List of Networks" is included. In summary, this is a useful addition to the literature on library networks but still far from the quality monograph that should be devoted to this important topic.—*Darrell H. Lemke, Coordinator of Library Programs, Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area.*

A Search for New Insights in Librarianship: A Day of Comparative Studies. Proceedings of a Conference Held in the Library School Commons, Helen C. White Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, April 25, 1975. Edited by William L. Williamson. Madison: Library School, Univ. of Wisconsin, 1976. 106p. \$4.00. (Order from: Publications Committee, Library School, Univ. of Wisconsin, 600 North Park Street, Madison, WI 53706.)

This volume contains seven papers, most by doctoral students enrolled in the Seminar in Comparative Librarianship. The seminar's methodological focus is to attempt "to assemble the data of institutional development, namely library statistics and those demographic conditions which seemed to

correlate best with given levels of development" (p.58). Four papers resulted from such efforts.

Three papers use a two-nation approach: Donald C. Johnson's study, "Bibliographical Controls and Some Other Indicators of the Status of Librarianship in Ceylon and Pakistan," compares general factors that influence library development and a series of bibliographic controls, and the author concludes that "local conditions are likely to play a dominant role that overrides the impact of a common colonial experience" (p.33). In "A Comparison of Jamaican and Puerto Rican Library Development," Daniel Flores Durán notes the importance "of outside forces in situations without strong indigenous library traditions" (p.100). Peter Neenan reviews the "Development of Library Education Programs in the Two Germanies since 1945" and sees there "a clear illustration of the effect of different styles of political and philosophical approach" upon agencies of library education (p.46).

Robert V. Williams, author of the most ambitious paper (statistically speaking), "Indicators of Library Development: Latin America," employs the computer to analyze an array of variables to test a series of hypotheses relating library development to a number of indicators. He finds it necessary to reject all his hypotheses, concluding that the attempt provides no solid leads to hypotheses of causality and that he has been dealing with too many variables in an initial study of this kind.

A fifth paper, "Indicators of Library Development: Counties of Southwestern Wisconsin," by Larry Gertzog, reminds us that comparative studies need not cross national political boundaries. He questions "why one county in southwestern Wisconsin had decided consistently over an eighteen year period not to involve itself in a public library system with its neighboring counties" and concludes by doubting that "any indicators, no matter how clearly derived or how universal in application, can eliminate the need to understand the unique background of each situation under study" (p.67).

There are two general papers. In an opening piece, "Publishing and the Intel-

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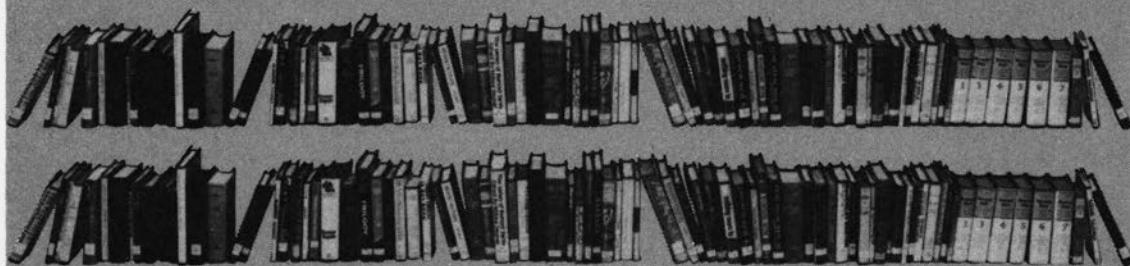
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lectual 'System'" (also published in the *Annals* of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, September 1975), Philip G. Altbach, State University of New York at Buffalo, describes the critical role books continue to play in the intellectual system of most societies. The other general paper, by the editor, William L. Williamson, is "Comparative Studies: Onions? or the Emperor's New Clothes?" and contains some general remarks about comparative studies.

Even though it makes no pretense of giving us definitive studies, this little volume can prove useful as a compilation of several case studies. But one wishes Williamson had converted his remarks into a general introductory essay, thus indicating at the outset the methodological basis of the Wisconsin seminar, instead of leaving the readers to discover it for themselves.

The inclusion of maps would have been a helpful addition; and despite the note advising that the volume contains "an edited version" of the papers, there is some inconsistency in footnote style, and some citations appear to be incomplete. Nevertheless, the Library School at Madison deserves commendation for making available a series of papers useful to those interested in comparative librarianship.—*William Vernon Jackson, The University of Texas at Austin.*

Johnson, Elmer D., and Harris, Michael H. *History of Libraries in the Western World*. 3d ed., completely revised. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1976. 354p. \$10.00. LC 76-25422. ISBN 0-8108-0949-4.

The first edition of this familiar work appeared in 1965 as a transmogrification of a still earlier Johnson book published by Scarecrow Press ten years before. It represented a unique attempt to provide a survey of the spread and expansion of libraries from earliest times in Europe and the United States. Its success as a text in library schools led to a second edition expanded to include developments in Canada and Latin America. Its publisher, however, soon discovered that more was not better: the higher cost, the sheer bulk of 521 pages, and the repetitious nature of the contents

made the second edition a much less attractive commodity.

As a result, Michael Harris (University of Kentucky Library School) was called in to perform surgery. In terms of the immediate goal of reducing its size, the third edition succeeds handsomely. With only 354 pages, it is slimmer than even the first edition and sells for \$2.50 less than its predecessor. It achieves this by the adoption of a more efficient format that crowds 20 percent more words onto a page, by the elimination of some sections altogether (those dealing with modern private libraries, for example), by vigorously pruning reading lists at the end of each chapter, and by severely cutting the index to a quarter of its previous size.

But alas, less is not necessarily all that better, either. The updating of the reading lists and the deletion of obsolete and not readily accessible entries that padded earlier editions are perhaps the most positive results. The book itself falls considerably short of success both in terms of its overall style and presentation as well as in the very way in which it conceives of its subject.

It may be questionable for this journal to subject to very close scrutiny a textbook, particularly one claiming no pretensions to serious scholarship. But it is worth considering some flaws in what may still be considered as one of the more useful texts because they reflect characteristic shortcomings, not only of library history as it has been written, but of the kind of tedious courses to which library school students are often subjected.

Despite the publisher's claim, the book has not been "completely revised in the light of recent advances." There has been some tinkering with transitional sentences, some dropping of paragraphs here and there. There has been a good deal of scissors-and-paste rearrangement. But the book, for the most part, has not been recast or rewritten except in the most superficial sense. Overall it is still—what its pedestrian style has never disguised—a dry, enumerative account of the establishment through time of "organized collections of graphic materials."

It takes its reader from country to country and from century to century through