provide the reader with a certain measure of media wisdom.

Two areas noticeably not addressed in this compilation are networking and copyright. Articles relating to these issues would be particularly appropriate and timely. The usefulness of this book for most librarians, and particularly academic librarians, is questionable. The few meaningful articles could easily be researched through *Library Literature*. A much preferred compilation of articles relating to nonprint media is Margaret Chisholm's *Reader in Media, Technology, and Libraries.—David B. Walch, State University of New York, College at Buffalo.*

Allerton Park Institute, 22d, 1976. *Changing Times, Changing Libraries.* George S. Bonn and Sylvia Faibisoff, editors. Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science, 1978. 166p. $8. (Available from: Publications Office, Graduate School of Library Science, 249 Armory Bldg., Champaign, IL 61820.)

This is a good and useful book as it must have been a good and useful conference. The University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science has, for years, been of real service to the profession in holding its annual Allerton Park Institute. Judging from the papers presented here, this one, held in the autumn of 1976, may be of longer-lasting value than some of the others. Certainly, two years later, there is almost nothing in it (with the possible exceptions of the papers on technology) that is or will be immediately dated.

The introduction, written by George S. Bonn and Sylvia Faibisoff, both library school faculty members, neatly summarizes what was covered. The concept of the institute, a long look ahead, was a legitimate one considering the "possible social, scientific, and technological trends that may shape our lives as the United States enters its third century." The effort was worthwhile; the various papers presented by established, if not famous, men and women are well-organized, cogent, and generally easy to understand without being simplistic.

Much that these people shared with us should have been at least familiar to those who gathered in Champaign-Urbana's tallest hotel (not in the elegant Allerton House in the middle of the cornfields), but it is valuable, occasionally, to pull even revealed wisdom together in a handy, well-edited book for distribution to those of our colleagues who may not read much, who may not be attuned to what our society is becoming, and who want their information palatably packaged.

The format used was to have people of the caliber of Kenneth W. Thompson, professor of government and foreign affairs at Virginia; Clement Bezold of the Antioch School of Law's Institute of Alternative Futures; Ralph Smith of the Urban Institute; Bruce Sherwood of Illinois's Computer-based Education Research Laboratory; R. Lynn Carroll of the National Science Foundation's Office of Government and Public Programs; Harold Shane, university professor of education at Indiana University; Helena Z. Lopata of Loyola University of Chicago's Center for the Comparative Study of Social Roles; and Donald P. Ely of Syracuse University's Center for the Study of Information and Education present their papers.

These papers were followed by the respective responses of Jesse H. Shera, Eileen D. Cooke, Jane Cooney, Gerald R. Brong, John P. McDonald, Crystal M. Bailey, Gerald R. Shields, and Hugh C. Atkinson, librarians well known to most of us. The papers are grouped under subheadings—some causes of change, some results of change, and the process of change.

In a short review it is not possible to analyze and evaluate each paper and each response, but it might be noted that Thompson's contribution, which reviewed the framework of our society in its historical perspective, is excellent. Bezold on the future of government is both provocative and even frightening (at least to this registered Whig!), and includes in its appendixes extremely interesting material on future trends in government and "scenarios for the future" drawn from his extensive research.

Indeed, the papers of these two men, and the responses of Jesse Shera and Eileen Cooke, which constitute about a third of the book, are the most valuable part of the whole. Smith on "Prospects for Women in the Paid Labor Market" and Lopata on

"Changes in Sexual Identities" are, with comments by Jane Cooney and Gerald Shields, interesting, but like Atkinson and Ely on the process of change, the material is somewhat familiar if well encapsuled. Shane's paper, based on his own research and the opinions of leaders in education and futurists, leads one with ideals of excellence almost to despairing conclusions but is well worth reading.

The presentations of the nonlibrarians are, on the whole, generally more thoughtful, more scholarly, and more intellectually satisfying than the responses by the librarians—perhaps because the latter had little time to study them and, in any case, were not really expected to write scholarly critiques, but rather to respond in public, almost extemporaneously, to them. As such, they reflect a much more immediate perspective, rather than a futuristic one. There were also a few comments on our colleagues that jarred a bit as, for example, I have found librarians, in the pragmatic tradition inherent in the profession, to be rather more receptive to change than we are given credit for, and certainly more so than, say, the faculties and students many of us serve.

I was disappointed a bit in what I saw as a curious lack of value considerations in the discussions (excepting Thompson's), even though I recognize that our society is increasingly valueless. There were, rather, perhaps as there should have been, simply the authors' perceptions of reality: "This is what we think we know. . . ." But this disinterested approach seems to imply to this reviewer an almost fatuous optimism which I believe misplaced.

There was little recognition of the fact that changes in librarianship, while of both immediate and future importance to *us*, are very small beer in the grand design (if there is a grand design) of the future. There was little sense of the decline of the West, if you will, of the graying of society, of the submergence of the individual and the decline of individualism, of the present and future lack of privacy, and of the diminishing ability of modern men and women to control their own destinies.

It is not fair to review a book for what it is not, of course, and even in the re-gimented life of, say, China, I suppose libraries function and librarians may even be happy in their work. Western man would not—will not!—be so happy in our world of the future. Perhaps he doesn't deserve to be. . . .—*Stuart Forth, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park.*

The Library of Congress in Perspective. A Volume Based on the Reports of the 1976 Librarian's Task Force and Advisory Groups. Edited by John Y. Cole. New York: Bowker, 1978. 281p. $21.95. LC 78-5000. ISBN 0-8352-1055-3.

When a library engages in self-study, the first area of investigation tends to be the historical context of the institution. This historical understanding of the forces giving shape to an organization becomes particularly important when the institution is the Library of Congress. In 1976, Daniel Boorstin, then newly appointed Librarian of Congress, ordered a self-study of the library by creating a task force on goals, organization, and planning. Over a one-year period, the task force, chaired by John Y. Cole, investigated the library's past, discussed the present with a large number of staff, and outlined recommendations for its future. The findings and recommendations comprise the bulk of this volume.

The book serves two purposes: it provides a history of the Library of Congress, and it outlines the recommendations of the task force. The historical section focuses on the four earlier organizational assessments conducted by the Library of Congress in 1940, 1947, 1962, and 1967. The results of these studies indicate the political and economic trends that have contributed to the character of the Library of Congress.

The question of the appropriate role for the Library of Congress has been haunting the various Librarians of Congress since the beginning. The discussion of the legislation and recommendations of various groups is a particularly noteworthy contribution of this publication. Equally useful is the chronology of the most important events in the institution's history, beginning with its establishment in Washington in 1800.

The findings and recommendations of the 1976 task force have been available for some time now, and that section of the book is