them will make filing easier, a minor point, and make the cards, and consequently library materials, easier to locate. And that is the major point to both of these new codes of filing rules.—*Neal L. Edgar, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.*

Archivists and Machine-Readable Records. Proceedings of the Conference on Archival Management of Machine-Readable Records, February 7–10, 1979, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Ed. by Carolyn L. Geda; Erik W. Austin; and Francis X. Blouin. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1980. 248p. ISBN 0-931828-19-8.

Somewhat belatedly, the archival profession has come to accept the fact that machine-readable records represent unparalleled opportunities, both in practical terms related to the control of archival records and as data for scholarly research. Trained in conventional disciplines employing traditional research methodology, archivists often have been unable to exploit the advantages of automated records or to mitigate effectively the problems they present. Professional awareness and comprehension of the subject have been so slight that a recent issue of the *American Archivist* was devoted in its entirety to "Archivists, Archives, and Computers: A Starting Point." In an effort to provide clear definition of the issues and direction for the future, the Conference on Archival Management of Machine-Readable Records was held in early 1979, under the auspices of the University of Michigan. The present volume, published by the Society of American Archivists, is composed primarily of papers read at that conference.

Divided into thematic chapters, *Archivists and Machine-Readable Records* contain papers concerned with research opportunities of and archival programs for automated records, management and dissemination of machine-readable data for social research, recent developments in computer technology, and the ramifications of automated records upon the rights of confidentiality and privacy. Summary papers also are included, one dealing with implications of automated records for conventional archival procedures and the other with the needs and opportunities for training archivists to be conversant with machine-readable records. Although some of the papers apply to archives in general, for example, those treating privacy legislation, software prospects, and computer-based storage technology, the majority concentrate upon social-science data or various aspects of machine-readable records at the state and national levels. Even so, most of the papers are based on principles sufficiently broad to justify a careful reading by the profession at large.

As with any endeavor of this sort, the quality of the papers varies, but in the main they are well thought out, intelligible to those without expertise in the field of automated records, and mercifully free of computer jargon. In addition, each chapter is prefaced by a useful introduction that serves as a summary of the relevant papers. While *Archivists and Machine-Readable Records* does not answer all the questions it raises and leaves others largely unexplored, for example, the physical preservation of automated records, this is a good primer and deserves a wide audience.—*Sam Streit, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.*

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