

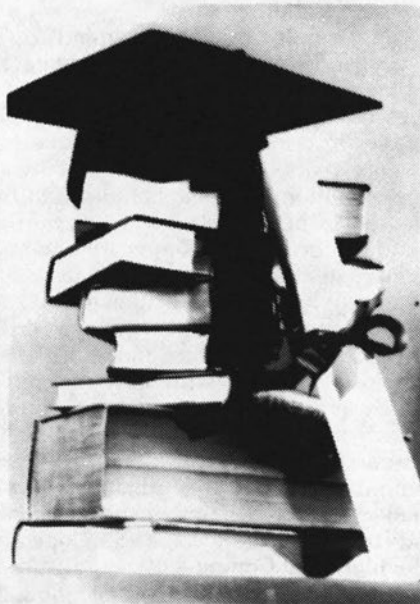
processing, records scheduling, preservation and maintenance, and access and reference services) and how they must be modified when working with machine-readable records are discussed in chapter 3. Forms, used primarily at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, are included. Of interest to those wanting more information will be the increased number of footnotes. A significant issue with machine-readable records is their preservation and maintenance. Hedstrom warns that "under optimal conditions, tape cannot be expected to last more than twelve to twenty years." There is also associated extra maintenance such as rewinding every one or two years and rigid temperature and humidity controls. The archivist having the option to decline acceptance of machine-readable records or unable to operate within the constraints would be well advised to consult this section before making a decision to accept machine-readable records.

The final chapter discusses archives and the office of the future. As Hedstrom

states, there are major changes forecast in media storage. Currently, magnetic media do not meet all the criteria developed by archivists and records managers for acceptable archival storage media. New storage media being developed and discussed by the author are optical disks and computer assisted retrieval (CAR) of microform images. This chapter may overwhelm the archivist struggling to deal with magnetic storage media, and now another type of media is soon to proliferate. These media, particularly optical disks, will, no doubt, generate another manual in the series. But, for now, Hedstrom's manual will provide assistance to archivists and others who must meet the challenge of machine-readable records.—*Bruce Q. Frost, University of Illinois at Chicago.*

**Mason, Marilyn Gell.** *The Federal Role in Library and Information Services.* White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, 1983. 177p. (Professional Li-

## Midwest Library Service



**You won't find  
a wider selection  
... anywhere**

College and university librarians: Midwest Library Service has what you're looking for. With 24 years of experience in the field, Midwest can supply you with virtually any book you want—even one from the smallest, most obscure publisher. This includes nearly all U.S. and Canadian publishers, U.S. distributors of foreign published works, university presses, non-profit organizations, private associations, and societies, in addition to many reprint publishers and paperbacks. You won't find a wider selection of books your library wants, whether you're a small college or a large university. Midwest Library Service has what you're looking for!

For additional information, call the  
TOLL-FREE WATS NUMBER: (800) 325-8833.  
Missouri librarians call toll-free (800) 392-5024  
Canadian librarians call collect (314) 739-3100



**Midwest Library Service**

11443 St. Charles Rock Road  
Bridgeton, MO 63044

brarian series) \$27.50. LC 83-11970. ISBN 0-86729-009-9.

Why federal involvement? Mason reviews in the introductory chapter of the book the societal forces and conditions—political, economic, and technological—in which library and information services exist. She discusses individual rights, states rights and property rights, values articulated throughout our history. But she argues that “any government that expresses the principle of individual rights and freedoms without providing the means to obtain the information necessary to exercise those rights is a sham.” Within our society the library makes a unique contribution. A political as well as a social establishment, the library does more than educate and inform, it transmits ideas and provides continuity and social order. While not every voter will go to a library to research an issue or candidate before voting, every voter could do so.

Mason defines the federal role in library and information services as: (1) data collection and distribution; (2) financial support such as grants-in-aid; (3) research and demonstration; and (4) planning and policy making; a chapter is devoted to each of these. The final three chapters cover library networks, an example of how conditions combined to shape the federal role in the development of a specific type of library service; the White House Conference on Library and Information Services; and the future federal role.

More than just the collection and distribution of government information is encompassed in the chapter on data collection and distribution. Mason considers two areas, direct information services and publishing and distribution services. Direct information services include the activities of the major federal libraries—the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, and the National Agricultural Library. She also notes the contributions of other federal agencies, including the preservation and publication activities of the National Archives and Records Service, and the development of information files and databases by the Census Bureau, Patent and Trademark Office, the Na-

tional Technical Information Service, the Educational Resources Information Center, etc. The second portion of this chapter provides a discussion of the federal publishing and distribution activities. The roles and responsibilities of the Joint Committee on Printing, the Government Printing Office, and the National Technical Information Service are summarized. The policy issues and conflicts arising from the relationship between these government bodies and private information firms, from the expanding role of the Office of Management and Budget in information management, and from the enactment of the Freedom of Information Act and other information-related legislation are all noted. No specific reference is made here regarding the impact that the electronic distribution of government information will have on libraries, the public, and the relationship between government and the private sector. This book was published in 1983; the Chadha decision by the Supreme Court was issued in June 1983; economic conditions have also continued to change. All the conditions that Mason has noted continue to bring rapid changes in government publishing and distribution activities. However, the basic policy issues and conflicts remain the same.

Mason notes that grants-in-aid for library services are a relatively recent development but that their development coalesced with developments in public libraries to bring rapid growth in the last twenty years. This chapter briefly traces the evolution of public libraries and the development of legislation that authorizes funding for public, elementary and secondary, higher education, and medical libraries. While this information is available in other sources, grants-in-aid are a part of the federal role in library and information services. Sometimes the only one referenced. However, Mason's chapter on research and demonstration indicates that research and development programs within the federal government also have had an impact on libraries, the most obvious being the MARC tapes developed by the Library of Congress.

The chapter on policy and planning issues considers the development of “infor-

mation policy," defined by Mason as a set of interrelated laws and policies concerned with the creation, collection, management, distribution, and retrieval of information. Here the relationship between the government and the private sector is examined in an economic context, where information becomes a commodity. Mason points out the balance that exists between subsidizing the creation of government information and establishing property rights for information.

Political, economic, and technological conditions in our society make the role of the federal government in library and information services of major importance not only to libraries and librarians, but to all citizens. Mason has drawn together in a single volume a review of the philosophical base, the historical development, and the policy issues. She then suggests appropriate roles for federal involvement in the future. This is not an in-depth analysis of each area included but gives a perspective and basis for further discussion and future policy development.—*Sandra K. Peterson, Yale University.*

**Rogers, A. Robert, and Kathryn McChesney.** *The Library in Society.* Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1984. 285p. (Library Science Text Series) \$28.50. LC 84-15440. ISBN 0-87287-379-X.

The authors and their six contributors, who intended this work as an introductory text for library science students, state that they seek to provide a theoretical and conceptual framework that would aid in developing a better understanding of the role of libraries in society. They set out to accomplish this by presenting a view of librarianship in an international context.

The book is divided into four main parts. Part 1 attempts to encourage students to view libraries as integral parts of the societies in which they developed. Chapter 1 describes the role of the library in meeting societal needs. Philosophies of librarianship are presented in chapter 2. Chapter 3 surveys the history of libraries and librarianship from antiquity to the status of libraries at the end of World War II with an emphasis on the West. Part 2 describes the major types of libraries. There

are separate brief chapters on national libraries, school and media centers, college and university libraries, public libraries, special libraries and information centers, and other governmental and quasi-governmental libraries. Part 3 presents overviews of librarianship from various regions of the world. Basic concepts of international and comparative librarianship are presented in the first chapter, setting the stage for the slightly more detailed descriptions of librarianship in Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Africa, and Latin America that follow. Part 4 surveys the impact of professional associations on library development in the first chapter. Major professional issues in industrial and postindustrial societies as they affect libraries and librarianship are discussed in the next chapter. Problems and prospects of libraries in the Third World are presented in the last chapter. At the end of each chapter a bibliography of basic sources mentioned in the chapters for further reading are given. This is often preceded by a short list of questions for discussion and reflection—both appear to be useful to students.

The authors state in their preface that they wished to view librarianship in an international context while most "library in society" books seemed to focus almost exclusively on the United States. They have succeeded in their effort to present libraries in society in general terms in an international context; however, so much ground is covered that it seems to lack adequate depth and detail and often results in a superficial, less meaningful presentation as a whole. The textbook's tone and many generalities may be somewhat irritating to a reader seeking more detailed knowledge; perhaps it is not possible to do more with an objective of presenting an introductory survey such as this.—*Pat Kissinger, Northern Illinois University.*

**College Librarianship: The Objectives and the Practice.** Ed. by A. Rennie McElroy. London: The Library Assn., 1984. 447p. \$50. ISBN 0-85365-785-8. (Dist. in the U.S. by Oryx).

*College Librarianship: The Objectives and the Practice* belongs to the Handbook on Li-