

beginners. There is something here for both groups, to be sure, but ultimately *The State and the Academic Library* is probably most valuable for the student. The case studies—most notably Janet Freedman's report on the Massachusetts experience—and other examples scattered through the text provide a vivid sense of what actually happens in real-life situations. First-hand experience is no doubt the best teacher in these matters, but getting an eyewitness account of others' experiences may be the best substitute.—Edward Shreeves, *University of Iowa, Iowa City.*

Franklin, Janice R. *Database Ownership and Copyright Issues among Automated Library Networks: An Analysis and Case Study.* Norwood, N.J.: Ablex, 1993. 181p. (ISBN 0-89391-752-4).

The purpose of this book is to demonstrate how conflicts involving database ownership between a national bibliographic utility (OCLC) and the regional utilities it has spawned (in this case study SOLINET) can be understood in light of social network theory and how such conflicts can be avoided if the tenets of this theory are recognized by all the players involved.

The universal principles of social network theory are said to apply to all social networks, whether they are groups of libraries, politicians, or colleagues. The application of these principles to a conflict situation, such as that involving centralized versus regional networks, is supposed to result in a formulation of cooperative, rather than competing, relationships.

Janice Franklin meticulously traces the events surrounding the decision by OCLC in 1982 to copyright the union catalog amid resistance from regional networks, such as SOLINET. Starting in the late 1970s the subject of ownership of databases became controversial as the regional networks emerged from passive roles as OCLC brokers to more independent, active competitors of OCLC. Eventually these regional networks joined together in various efforts to preserve the right to use, as they wanted,

the data generated by their members. For instance, they sought to produce local services in the form of COM catalogs, local area networks, and other computer-generated services provided to and shared by third-party libraries not directly linked to OCLC. OCLC, seeing its role as compiler of the union catalog database, took issue with the idea of providing services to third parties who had not contributed to the national database as contractual members. OCLC argued that, if not protected, the national database would lose its integrity and quality, and thus secured copyright on its union catalog in 1982.

This book provides a sound understanding of the issues that led to OCLC's copyrighting of its database and the frictions between it and the various regional networks that have surfaced in the wake of that action. Franklin surveys the literature on the history of library networks in America, tracing their history back to the earliest years of interlibrary cooperation. She outlines numerous subjects relevant to the problems between regional and centralized bibliographic utilities: the impact of federal legislation and financial support to central utilities on the retention of local regional control, the primary goals of copyright law with regard to national databases, and library network development. All of these topics are viewed with respect to social, economic, and political forces, and in particular to social network theory. The applications of this theory to OCLC as well as to SOLINET are at times unclear and confusing. What emerges from the analysis, however, are a few basic and understandable conclusions: (1) that a centralized structure such as OCLC can be most effective in dealing with subordinate organizations, such as regional networks, if it attains a decentralized structure of authority; (2) that competitive forces should be openly acknowledged and reduced to levels that will not destroy networking goals; (3) that good communications are of utmost importance; and (4) that policy formulations and role definitions should be clearly expressed and communicated.

From the outset Franklin stresses the fact that she is analyzing library networks as social phenomena, rather than approaching them from the usual technical standpoints found throughout library literature. The reader may remain unconvinced by her assertions regarding the effectiveness of applying social network theory to all aspects of library networking, but they nonetheless are thought-provoking and no doubt possess certain usefulness. For instance, the act of sharing contributed bibliographic data is obviously better advanced if a spirit of cooperation rather than competition prevails as a driving force between a central nationwide utility and its subordinate regional networks.

This book is well-documented, and provides excellent insight into the entire database ownership/copyright controversy. It is this latter contribution that is perhaps its greatest merit. Much research has been published on this issue, but this particular work offers a useful and refreshing historical assessment.—*Thomas D. Kilton, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.*

Lancaster, F. W. *If You Want to Evaluate Your Library . . .* 2d ed. Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 1993. 352p. \$39.50 (0-87845-091-2).

When F. W. Lancaster published the first edition of *If You Want to Evaluate Your Library . . .* in 1988, the book received praise from numerous reviewers who recognized its value for practicing librarians as well as library school students. The second edition follows the organizational pattern of the first, but the author has nearly doubled the length of the book. Virtually all the chapters are longer and significantly revised. As in the first edition, Lancaster focuses only on the evaluation of public services. New chapters, however, are devoted to the evaluation of bibliographic instruction and continuous quality control.

In the introduction Lancaster discusses the need for evaluation in the context of Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science. He concludes that only

by evaluating their activities can libraries adapt to changing conditions. In the first section, entitled "Document Delivery Services," the author offers chapters on the evaluation of library collections, using expert judgment and bibliographies as well as circulation data and in-house use. Other chapters discuss periodical use, obsolescence and weeding, use of space, catalog use, and shelf availability. In the second section, "Reference Services," chapters address question answering, database searching, and bibliographic instruction. A concluding miscellaneous grouping of chapters covers resource sharing, cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit studies, and continuous quality control.

The chapters are well organized and move smoothly from discussions of research issues to evaluation methodologies. Evidence is clearly recorded and displayed in the many "exhibits." In addition, the book is very well written. Far too often reading about evaluation and research methodologies in library science proves painfully dull. This is not the case with Lancaster's book. Although he specifically intended the first edition to serve primarily as a library school textbook—thus the creative study questions which conclude each chapter in both editions—the expanded second edition offers much to the practicing librarian who needs to assess a particular library service. It will inspire and inform both experienced and new librarians as well as library school students.

Lancaster notes in his introduction that evaluation can be either subjective or objective, but he takes the position that it is most valuable when it is analytical and diagnostic. In other words, evaluation is most usefully employed when it seeks to discover how a service might be improved. Evaluation, he posits, is an essential management tool that will permit identification of the best ways to improve performance. In this way Lancaster always links evaluation with what can perhaps best be labeled *vision*. He clearly believes that only through evaluation can librarians gain the insight to design and improve services that address the needs of their clientele.