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**NEW INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES
—NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

Papers presented at the 1981 Clinic on Library Applications
of Data Processing, April 26-29, 1981

**Clinic on Library Applications
of Data Processing: 1981**

**New Information
Technologies
—New Opportunities**

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INTRODUCTION

The eighteenth annual Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing was held April 26-29, 1981, at the Illini Union, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. New technologies for processing, transmitting and storing information present new opportunities and challenges to libraries. The papers from the clinic discuss current developments and applications of these technologies, together with some of the issues which they raise.

Technologies for information processing include microcomputers and word processors. Fosdick presents a tutorial on microcomputers, while Woods provides many examples of microcomputer applications in technical processing, public services and management activities of libraries. Hoyt describes the many applications which the USDA's Technical Information Systems has found for the word processor. Penniman surveys available data entry and display devices.

Technologies for information transmission include videotex and teletext. Veith identifies projects in the United States and abroad which are testing the market for these new information systems. Divilbiss highlights some recent developments in telecommunications, including electronic mail, facsimile, two-way cable, and digital telephones. To store information, videodiscs now supplement the microforms and magnetic tapes with which librarians are already familiar. Schipma outlines the basic characteristics of videodiscs as a storage medium.

Complementing the papers on technology are three others which take the form of technology assessment—an analysis of some of the issues and problems raised by these technological innovations and applications. Miller addresses the question of copyright protection for computer software and databases. Nielsen explores the relationship between technologi-

cal change and professional identity. In his keynote speech, Wigington cites the changing roles of the information professional as information technology evolves.

A recent book defines the "techno-peasant" as "anyone who's technologically illiterate."¹ For those who want to learn about the new information technologies, the present book offers an overview of their characteristics and potential applications.

LINDA C. SMITH

Editor

REFERENCE

1. Cunningham, Ann M., and Begley, Sharon. *The Techno-Peasant Survival Manual*. New York: Bantam Books, 1980, (cover).