In Miss Stewart’s book, the summary and evaluation come at the beginning, and the review is broken into two parts. The first part, which is chronologically arranged, takes up ninety-four pages and is based on some 284 references. The second part, a topical summary, takes sixty-seven pages to list some forty-two features by which the reading machines are classified. These range from cost of the equipment, through the various optical and mechanical features, to end with use costs.

The chief value of these two volumes lies in their chapters of recommendations and their bibliographies. The former will be fertile fields for doctoral candidates looking for subjects for dissertations. They will also be used by industry to help lay out research projects on present and future equipment. The two bibliographies bring together just about all that one could find in this field up to 1957. I suspect that many students will be shuffling these lists into manifold arrangements for some time to come.

The outstanding shortcoming of both books lies in the lack of illustrations. The descriptions of equipment and techniques cry for pictures and diagrams. The evaluation of equipment and processes in both books is somewhat indiscriminating. There is little weight given as to who made what judgment when. There are surprisingly few errors when one considers what a wide range of time and subject matter is covered. One that will amuse those who know him is the appearance of Frank and Frederic Luther, both writing about Dagron.

Library Trends, VIII (1960), no. 1 (Photoduplication in Libraries. Edited by James E. Skipper.)


Of greater interest to the technologists in the field are: Robert H. Muller, “Policy Questions Relating to Library Photoduplication Laboratories”; Charles G. La Hood, Jr., “Microfilm as Used in Reproduction and Transmission Systems”; Peter Scott, “Advances and Goals in Microphotography.”

This issue is recommended reading for all who are interested in microfilming. Librarians responsible for organizing microform reading rooms will benefit by Bechanan’s report on Harvard’s progress in this line. Heads of library photoduplication laboratories will be thankful to Muller for his survey of their problems. Commercial microphotographic agencies about to embark on projects aimed at libraries would do well to study the articles by Thompson, Riggs, and Schwegmann. This issue will be on library school reading lists for some time to come.

Microtexts as Media for Publication: The Papers and Discussion of a Symposium Held at Hatfield Technical College on the 10th November 1959... Hatfield, Herts., England: Hertfordshire County Council, 1960. 87p. 9s.

Hatfield is located twenty miles north of London (about as far from its center as Scarsdale is from Times Square) and is the source of an increasing number of important publications on photoduplication. In January 1958 a Symposium on Microtexts and Micro-recording was held, and its papers published. A Symposium on Modern Copying Techniques followed in January 1959, resulting in another booklet. The third publication is perhaps of greatest interest to librarians. It consists of papers presented on microfilm, microfiche, and Microcard, and considers them from the standpoint of their suitability for publication of scholarly material.

The first paper is on “Microfilm—The Versatile Academic Tool” by Eugene Power of University Microfilms. It contains a wealth of information based on twenty-five years of experience with this medium. This is followed by Dr. L. J. van der Wolk’s report on “Publishing on Microfiche.” This presents a