

instructions refining the search among standardized headings); (3) repeat the same comparison and checking procedures with the classification tables. It might be possible to do both the subject heading and classification comparisons simultaneously. Present machines are capable of performing this kind of look-up and comparison operations.

During the symposium, the information needs of the scientific world, at least, were very clearly described, and a few of the imaginative methods which have been made by scientists and engineers to answer these needs were outlined. It is doubtful that the conference did much to end the Great Schism between the librarians, who understand the magnitude of the information storage and retrieval problem in its totality, and the proponents of mechanization, who see only the failures of present systems in the highly specialized fields with which they are familiar. Dean Boaz and the library school of the University of Southern California are to be commended on making a sincere effort to open channels of communication between the two viewpoints.—*Phyllis A. Richmond, University of Rochester Library.*

Audio-Visual Tool

They See What You Mean. By [Eric F. Burtis and James E. LeMay] Ozalid Audio-Visual Department. Johnson City, N. Y.: Ozalid Division of General Aniline and Film Corporation, 1959. 88p., \$3.75.

The overhead projector is an audio-visual tool that has appeared since 1950 and made its presence felt quite markedly in industrial audio-visual departments. It is beginning to appear at technical and academic meetings as an extension to the services offered by the older projection methods. It combines the freedom and spontaneity of the blackboard with the precision and artistry of the slide projector, while adding a number of facilities not found in these standard techniques.

Ozalid does not make overhead projectors, but it does produce equipment and supplies used in preparing transparencies for these projectors. The bulk of this superbly illustrated volume deals with the preparation of transparencies by the diazo process. This is

to be expected as Ozalid is the outstanding producer of diazo materials in this country. Sections of the book are given to homemade transparencies, Transferon (diffusion-transfer), transparency mounting techniques, transparency design, and overhead projection techniques. Much of this manual could be used to improve presentations based on the blackboard and slide projector, and it will certainly add to the versatility of the department using an overhead projector.

There is a short bibliography at the end of the book referring the reader to sixteen recent reports on overhead projection. There is also a two-page listing of Ozalid audio-visual products, which serves as a glossary to the many terms savoring of jargon that appear in the book. The illustrations with which the book is filled serve to simplify the description of techniques and exemplify the visual method at its best. The profusion of trade-names in the text tends to minimize the effectiveness of this portion of the book. The volume can be recommended for all libraries engaged in or about to become involved in audio-visual work.—*Hubbard W. Ballou, Columbia University Libraries.*

Soviet Publishing

Publishing in the U.S.S.R. By Boris I. Gorokhoff. (Indiana University Publications. Slavic and East European Series, Vol. 19.) [Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University, c1959.] xvi, 307 p. \$3.00; cloth, \$6.00.

In spite of the recent burgeoning of articles about Soviet methods of disseminating scientific information there has been a need for full length studies in English which would give a balanced presentation of Soviet libraries, bibliography, and publishing in general. The Council on Library Resources, Inc., has acted to fill this need by supporting Paul Horecky's *Libraries and Bibliographic Centers in the Soviet Union*, Volume 16 in the Indiana series, and its companion volume on publishing. Together they form a valuable survey of the current scene. The competence in research on Soviet Russia, built up in large measure since World War II by the area institutes in American universities, appears to have been joined happily with experienced librarianship in the production of these studies. A volume on

American library resources in the Russian and East European fields is forthcoming.

Mr. Gorokhoff bases his description on Soviet sources, surveying and analyzing the system of publishing books, periodicals, and newspapers. The special attention given to the fields of science and technology is not accomplished at the expense of the total picture. His criticism of Soviet practices, although not always clearly set off from description and data, anticipates many questions which normally arise. The all-important background of government structure and historical developments is provided in sufficient detail to clarify the complex publishing network.

It is perhaps not generally known that Soviet book trade organizations buy up the entire publishing output, with a few exceptions, and are required to absorb the loss for unsold copies; in 1957 the largest of these organizations pulped unsold copies in the amount of two billion rubles. But for the publishing industry as a whole, total profit exceeds total loss. The larger central publishing houses operate at a profit of about 24 per cent, whereas the smaller houses in the provinces, with old equipment and smaller editions, show losses of from 10 to 12 per cent. Local newspapers show approximately the same pattern of profit and loss in relation to the large central newspapers, with deficits made up by subsidy.

The author designates the types of literature rarely published in the USSR as detective stories, comic books, cook books, etiquette guides, works on astrology, and, most prominently, works on religion with the exception of some Bibles and church calendars. The chapter on censorship includes a sketch of its prewar history, as well as information on the censorship of inventions. In connection with import-export restrictions on printed materials, it is stated that about 98 per cent of Soviet newspapers are not available for subscription abroad, a fact which is connected with the less rigorous censorship exercised over provincial newspapers. To librarians faced with the custodial problems of newspapers, the figure of 98 per cent may come as a surprise.

Copyright and author's royalties are described in the chapter on the economics of publishing. Some pages are devoted to the

illusive matters of dissertations, patents, and standards. In most cases the notes and bibliography can be counted on to provide clues for the research worker or librarian seeking more detailed information in Russian sources.

Those who regard abstract journals and related materials as an important component of the bibliographic system may question where the section entitled "Documentation" belongs in the volume on publishing. A case could be made for discussing them in close relation to the national bibliography and problems of bibliographic control. Be that as it may, Mr. Gorokhoff succeeds well in his description of this important sector and summarizes some of the American evaluations. The *Referativnyi Zhurnal*, now appearing in thirteen main series, was begun in 1953 with the ambitious aim of abstracting the world's literature in science and technology. The major criticism within and without the Soviet Union has been that subject indexes have lagged considerably or failed to appear. Important and familiar as this is, it should not be allowed to obscure the fact that in 1958 70-80 per cent of the scientific literature of all countries was being covered, according to estimates of the All-Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information. There seems to be general agreement among Western scientists that the quality of the abstracting is high. The citation for each book, article, dissertation, or patent appears in the original language as well as in Russian. Mr. Gorokhoff rightly points out that "research workers who do not know Russian can now use the abstract journals as a bibliography of the world literature in their field and in the languages they know." A breakthrough in the matter of indexing seems within the realm of possibility.

It is not surprising that the bulk and price of the series has become a major drawback. In 1958, however, the publishing of smaller sections or subseries was begun with good results, and several dozen smaller periodicals may replace the thirteen. Whether the social sciences and humanities will be included eventually is an interesting question. A series for construction and architecture was announced in subscription lists for 1960.

Other ways in which the Soviet research worker is given the opportunity to keep up

with foreign science have received less attention but may be of equal or greater importance. Lack of copyright protection in the USSR permits a major program, begun in 1955, of photographic reproduction of foreign journals and books. One hundred thousand copies of a seventy-five page catalog of such journals were printed in 1958. There appears to be no extensive (and expensive) translation of journals cover-to-cover, as in the United States, but there are numerous series which provide full translations of selected articles and varying degrees of annotation and listing. The author mentions the *Ekspress-informatsiia* series, begun in 1955, as a particularly successful one.

The appendix of fifty-six supplements includes many statistical tables. Although statistics in the first forty-three supplements are derived from one principal Soviet source and two annuals which continue it, as noted on p. 198, unfortunately no cross reference to the note appears with the tables themselves. The problems of comparative statistics for American and Soviet publishing are discussed in the concluding chapter. Earlier in the book there is a statement about the acute shortage of printing facilities in the Soviet Union, a fact which might have been reiterated in the otherwise valuable concluding estimate of the publishing scene.

It is gratifying to find much well documented material brought together under one cover and organized in such a way as to be particularly meaningful for the librarian, whether for purposes of comparison or as a *vade mecum* in dealing with Russian publications.—*Eleanor Buist, Reference Department, Columbia University Libraries.*

Reading for Life

Reading for Life: Developing the College Student's Lifetime Reading Interest.
Edited by Jacob M. Price. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan Press, 1959. 271p. \$6.00.

It is exciting to have first-class minds probe such an important problem as how to give the undergraduate working for his degree in science or economics a lifelong enthusiasm for reading books. This collection of suggestions from teachers, librarians, and bookmen is gathered from the proceed-

ings of a conference at the University of Michigan in February 1958.

The occasion was auspicious (dedication of the three-million dollar undergraduate library). The participants were able and conscientious. The editing of their contributions, which includes discussion from the floor and even follow-up correspondence as well as the papers given, has accordingly produced a stimulating volume—and a discouraging one.

Librarians are always shocked and dismayed when confronted with the statistics which indicate, as Lester Asheim reports in his survey of recent research, that only 21 per cent of a random sampling of adults in the United States in 1949 admitted to be actually engaged in reading a book; and by 1957 this percentage had dropped to 17. Other studies show that 15 per cent of college students withdraw no books from the library at all during the academic year and that 31 per cent withdraw less than one book per month. If reading is not being done by students, who still manage to graduate, then the future of book reading looks black indeed.

Of course, as the conferees point out, there are extenuating considerations: Science students may not need to do so much book reading; students may read other than library books; reprints in paperback form are a dramatic new source; "reading" by way of other materials, such as audio-visual aids and non-book publications, may be equally effective in the learning process; and most of the teachers testified that today's undergraduate seemed better able than his predecessors to extract information from various sources. Still, for those who are committed to the value of the book, the picture looks dark, for all are agreed that the college years are crucial to continued book reading.

What are the causes of this defection from the book? One mentioned by the conferees is the nature of the student. Dean Charles E. Odegaard, now president of the University of Washington, states that 25 per cent of college students today come from families of unskilled workers where there are few books and little reading. Elementary and secondary instruction often does little to emphasize the rewards as opposed to the duty of book reading. Many participants admitted that college teaching also left much to be