

come "an." A line apparently left blank for a reference to be filled in is still blank (p. 141.)

With poor indexing and overlapping of the parts, at least eight must be scanned to be sure of picking up all there is on a specific topic in information retrieval. But even so, this would be greatly time saving in literature searching as compared with checking the literature indexes and abstracts and working from reference to reference in the literature itself, so the survey serves its intended purposes. The reviewer is himself contemplating another contribution to the literature, and is shocked by the reading which he has to catch up with, but it came under his notice at the cost of no more than a few hours' scanning. He is grateful, as well as flattered, at finding himself one of the writers brought under his notice, and he at least is glad to have the volumes so far issued now and as they are, though more time and care could have given them better organization later on. Something substantial and useful has been done, and substance and use in publication often wait too long on perfection in organization and typography.

—*John Metcalfe, University of New South Wales Library.*

Use of Books

Patterns in the Use of Books in Large Research Libraries. By Herman H. Fussler and Julian L. Simon. Chicago: The University of Chicago Library, 1961. [Microfilm] 283p., Appendices A-M. \$3.05.

The study herein reported makes a frontal attack on a problem of increasing concern to those responsible for the management of research collections. It proceeds on the thesis that the accumulative growth of the general research library must produce stresses that many institutions will find difficult to resolve, and that at least some relief may be achieved through the separation of material deserving a high degree of accessibility from that which, because of limited use, might be placed in less accessible and less expensive storage.

More specifically, the study seeks to develop statistical procedures which will predict with reasonable accuracy the frequency with which groups of books with defined characteristics are likely to be used in a research library. For the sake of simplicity, the study assumed a working library housing the bulk of the research collection operating in combination with a local, expandable storage facility absorbing much of the least-used material. The authors consider the findings, however, as equally relevant to cooperative storage and acquisition programs, and to programs for large-scale microfascimile operations. The approach has been essentially that of operations analysis of use of groups of books at the University of Chicago, but with some data from other libraries, including Yale, Northwestern, and the University of California at Berkeley.

Two unrelated subject fields in which Chicago's collections are strong were selected for detailed analysis of the use of monographs, namely economics and Teutonic languages and literature. Serial volumes were given separate consideration, as was browsing and non-recorded use. Statistical measures were in turn checked against the judgment of experts in the subject fields analyzed and, finally, such practical matters as procedures for the transfer of books to compact storage, and the economics of book housing receive attention.

The authors themselves have given warning that this volume, based largely on statistical procedures, is not easy reading. In fact, it is clearly labeled as a preliminary edition distributed for review and criticism. Lest this warning be taken lightly, one illustrative sentence is presented here, admittedly taken somewhat out of context: ". . . For any cutting-point, titles fall into two groups: those in the cell to be cut, and those in the non-cut cell. Binomial confidence limits establish the accuracy of our prediction of the number of titles that will fall into these cells in an infinite universe." On the plus side, however, is the fact that readers will find the background, methodology, and essential findings of the study in the introduction and first chapter, p. 1-34, and the summary and conclusions, p. 263-280, quick and easy reading for those interested.

Among the principal findings and conclusions:

1. It is possible to predict probable future use of groups of books with defined characteristics in a typical research library situation, although the qualifications are often complex and critical and confidence limits different from one subject to another.

2. Compact storage of books can save significant operating and capital sums, possibly ranging from 60 to 77 per cent of the costs of conventional housing.

3. The wisdom of accepting the economic advantages of compact storage must be weighed by qualitative judgment against the scholarly benefits of more accessible storage.

4. Past use of a title, if examined over a sufficiently long period, is an excellent and by far the best predictor of future use.

5. If 25 per cent of the economics collection of the University of Chicago were sent to storage, using a rule of language and publication date, the stored volumes would generate an estimated 3 per cent of total use; and each title would have a probability of being used roughly once in thirty-five years.

6. For humanistic disciplines, however, functions which do not employ past use are less successful. In Teutonic literature, for example, the 25 per cent of the collection selected by accession date and language would generate 12 per cent of the total use, and the average title would be used once in every ten years.

7. Employing "past use" over twenty years or more, some twenty-five per cent of the University of Chicago's collections of monographs in economics and Teutonic languages and literature could be stored with the expectation that only 1 per cent of the total use of the collections would come from the stored books. Predicted use of the average monograph thus selected: about once in one hundred years.

Some will say that the findings serve principally to confirm what is already known, namely, that books are subject to obsolescence as measured by intensity of use, and that large quantities of material in research

libraries enjoy relatively little use. Nevertheless, research libraries are under pressure because of costs, not only for storage but for acquisition and cataloging as well. The carefully marshalled evidence in this study and the restraint of interpretation and conclusion offer much, not only in support of lower cost of housing by compact storage of little-used material, but also in support of going further toward cooperative storage and the reduction of the number of copies of little-used books held by research libraries as a group.—*Richard H. Logsdon, Columbia University Libraries.*

Library Arts

Training Laymen in the Use of the Library.

By George S. Bonn. *Bibliographies, Abstracts, and Indexes.* By Margaret S. Bryant. (The State of the Library Art, Vol. 2, Parts 1-2) New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers, The State University Press, 1960. 114, 108p. \$5.00.

In the preface to this volume of an attractive and useful series, Ralph R. Shaw outlines the procedures followed by each of its compilers. He tells us that each one "attempts to summarize what the literature says with a minimum of redundancy but without editorial comment." Mr. Bonn, in stating his objectives, proposes not only to summarize the literature, but to indicate trends, problems, and needed research as well. In the introduction he has permitted himself the luxury of some comments which might well have been reserved for the concluding section, as, for example, "so far no one has shown or proved that training in the use of libraries really makes any appreciable difference to anybody anyhow." Approached from this skeptical point of view, the task of summarizing the literature on this topic must have proved tedious indeed.

The bibliography is doubtless the most useful feature of the work. It brings together an impressive array of over four hundred references to the subject, drawn from the professional literature of Europe and the United States. Mr. Bonn comments on these items in six sections dealing with various educational levels, while in the seventh