

which traditional librarians will be forced into an even more passive position than the one they now occupy. Despite all their faults, the papers imply a dynamism that libraries are not yet prepared to accept. This remark does not mean that librarians should jump on the band wagon of automation. Many of them are intellectually pretty shoddy affairs anyway (the antecedent here is band wagon, not librarians). It does mean that librarians do need to examine their whole concept of education, systems, and services and to determine where and how they can move from the passive to a dynamic stage.—Robert S. Taylor, *Lehigh University*.

*Information Retrieval Today. Papers Presented at the Institute Conducted by the Library School and the Center for Continuation Study, University of Minnesota, Sept. 19-22, 1962. Ed. by Wesley Simonon. Minneapolis: Center for Continuation Study, 1963. 176p. \$5.*

Information retrieval, in its mechanized forms, has not yet become a textbook subject, and those who wish to be informed on the state of the art have two alternatives. One is to keep current with developments through journal and report literature, studying and evaluating each item for reliability and pertinency. The second is not to worry until a particularly attractive conference or institute comes along, and then to take a cram course. The first is arduous and recommended only for the stout-hearted and the dedicated, of whom we need more! The latter is a prudent decision if one chooses the right conference.

Those who chose to attend the Institute on Information Retrieval Today did, indeed, choose the right one. The speakers were well selected for knowledgeability of, and experience with, the topic, and the attendants were largely librarians, giving a homogeneity of interests of which the speakers could take advantage in shaping their remarks. Consequently, the proceedings were remarkably free from much of the jargon one sometimes confronts when engineers, mathematicians, systems specialists, etc., gather to discuss this topic.

The goals of the institute were to present a well rounded picture of the present state

of information retrieval, giving attention to both theoretical and practical aspects of traditional and newer methods. The historical development and probable future direction of the art were considered in light of users' needs and requirements. The success of the conference is partially the result of the balance achieved in realizing these goals.

Jesse Shera's "Propaedeutic of the New Librarianship" sweeps across the development of information storage and retrieval capabilities from medieval times to the present, and Harold Wooster provides a look at the innovations to come in the near and distant future. Between these splendid expositions of our past and our future, we have the bulk of the papers, constituting both theoretical and empirical observations. Calvin Mooers, G. Jahoda, Ascher Opler, and I. A. Warheit discuss indexing and computer practices, and Peter Scott reviews the graphic aids which make valuable contributions to the field. Four systems currently in use or under study are described, those being: 1) Western Reserve University's machine literature searching projects; 2) the University of Illinois, Chicago, study of data processing applications for technical processes; 3) the serials computer project of the University of California, San Diego; and 4) MEDLARS. Each of the four have by now issued larger studies of the results of their researches and experiences, and the reader may wish to consult those studies for fuller treatment. Bernard Fry's presentation discusses relationships between user needs and the development of new information systems.

The final paper is "The Librarian and the Machine" by Henry J. Dubester, who makes a point which librarians should take to heart. He indicates that if more librarians would look carefully at the pattern of work in their area with the same detail one must employ when flow charting for systems analysis and possible mechanization, this examination would yield improvements startling in themselves. The observation is supported by the experiences of the University of Illinois project staff, who report many instances where poor routines and work procedures were brought to light.

If asked to pick the outstanding paper of the institute, this reviewer would cite I. A.

Warheit's "The Use of Computers in Information Retrieval." It displays a keen understanding of the basics of information science and states fundamental criteria for mechanization of the information retrieval process in concise terms.

If you have been a follower of the first

forementioned alternative, there is not much here for you that is new. If, however, you belong to the second class, these papers are recommended as a good starting point. The authors present their material clearly, and in the language of a librarian.—Howard W. Dillon, *Ohio State University*.

## Books Briefly Noted

*An Arizona Chronology; The Territorial Years, 1846-1912.* By Douglas D. Martin. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1963. 80p. \$1.95.

*A Bibliography of Doctoral Dissertations on Adults and Adult Education.* By Lawrence C. Little. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1963. 165p. \$4.50.

*A Bibliography of Russian Literature in English Translation to 1900.* By Maurice B. Line. London: Library Association, 1963. 74p. \$3.60.

*Catholic Serials of the Nineteenth Century in the United States, A Descriptive Bibliography and Union List.* By Eugene P. Willging and Herta Hatzfeld. Series 2, Part 6. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University, 1963. ix 44, and 6p. \$1.95.

*Foreign Service Directory of American Librarians.* Edited by Mary Ann Adams. Chicago: American Library Association, International Relations Round Table, 1963. 98p. (Available from Mary Rapp, University of Illinois Library, Navy Pier, Chicago 11, Illinois.) \$2.

*International Scientific Organizations; A Guide to Their Library, Documentation, and Information.* Prepared under the direction of Kathrine O. Murra. Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress, 1962. 794p. \$3.25.

*Librarianship and Publishing.* Edited by Carl H. Melinat. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University School of Library Science, 1963. 36p. \$1.50.

*Library Adult Education; The Biography of an Idea.* By Margaret E. Monroe. New York: Scarecrow Press, 1963. 550p. \$12.50.

*National Geographic Atlas of the World.* James M. Darley, Chief Cartographer and Melville Bell Grosvenor, Editor-in-Chief. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 1963. 304p. 115 maps. \$18.75, deluxe edition \$24.50.

*The London Stage 1600-1800; A Calendar of Plays, Entertainment and Afterpieces Together with Casts, Box-receipts and Contemporary Comment Compiled from the Playbills, Newspapers, and Theatrical Diaries of the Period.* Ed. with critical introductions by William Van Lennep, Emmett L. Avery, Arthur H. Scouten, George Winchester Stone, Jr. and Charles Beecher Hogan. Carbondale, Illinois: Southern Illinois University Press, 1963. 3v. \$75.00.

*Reference Sources in Agriculture; An Annotated Bibliography.* By M. L. Singhvi and D. S. Shrimali. Udaipur, India: Rajasthan College of Agriculture, 1962. 418p. \$10.

*Resources of Canadian University Libraries for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Report of a Survey for the National Conference of Canadian Universities and Colleges.* By Edwin E. Williams. Ottawa: National Conference of Canadian University and Colleges, 1962. 87p.

*S. Harrison Thomson Bio-Bibliography.* By Lubomyr R. Wynar. (Bio-Bibliographical Series: No. 1). Colorado: University of Colorado Libraries, 1963. 32p.

*Serial Publications Indexed in Bibliography of Agriculture.* Library List No. 75, National Agricultural Library, United States Department of Agriculture. Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, 1963. 163p. ■■