

Anthony Thompson writes as a librarian who, after varied experience in university and special libraries and after much preliminary study of the planning and design of library buildings, spent five years at intensive documentation at the library of the Royal Institute of British Architects. From his point of view, Wheeler and Githens produced the only systematic, comprehensive, and well illustrated book on library buildings, *The American Public Library Building*, 1941. Mr. Thompson frequently refers to this volume and in his introduction he expresses regret that he did not have a full-time architect-collaborator.

In a brief review of this monumental work attention can best be called to the original form of documentation adopted by the author by giving an outline of the contents of the volume.

Part I is a summary of the problems and tasks of creating a library. It is a definite statement of nine subjects: (1) functions and services of libraries; (2) the planning process; (3) the site; (4) the plan; (5) exterior and construction; (6) interior finishes and decoration; (7) equipment and furniture; (8) accommodation and capacity; (9) cost. Selected general references are included.

Part II is devoted to an analysis of existing buildings. Section A contains a brief history of library buildings. It is introduced with summaries of libraries: in Classical Antiquity, in the Dark Ages, and in the Middle Ages. Then follow brief sketches of separate libraries in chronological order.

Section B consists of examples of modern buildings since about 1920. These are described systematically using the outline shown as Part I above. Many of these descriptions are in detail, with photographs and plans on two uniform scales, 1:300 or 1:600. They are divided into four types: (a) six national libraries and the Library of Congress Annex; (b) twenty-seven public libraries—seven branch, thirteen central, and seven county—including the Enoch Pratt free library and the public library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County; (c) twenty-six libraries of educational institutions—four school, six college, and sixteen university libraries. The college group includes the libraries of Georgia Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and

Rice Institute. The group of university libraries includes Harvard's Lamont library, the undergraduate library of the University of Michigan, and the libraries of the University of Iowa, Wayne State, and Maryland; (d) five storage libraries are described, one of which is the Midwest Inter-Library Center.

Thus, Anthony Thompson has made an original contribution to knowledge in perfecting a new form of documentation for libraries. He has produced a truly systematic, comprehensive, and well illustrated work with international coverage. His work merits intensive study by every type of library building consultant, by librarians who are to plan a building, and by architects who are interested in qualifying as library architects.—A. F. Kuhlman, *Joint University Libraries*.

Microcopying Methods. By H. R. Verry. London: Focal Press, 1964. 175p. \$10.50.

H. R. Verry is a well known British consultant on documentation and reproduction and the writer of a column on the subject in the *Revue Internationale de Documentation*, but his latest book is a disappointingly shoddy production. Billed (in Verry's own column) as "a comprehensive survey," it is incomprehensive, incomprehensible in spots, seriously out-of-date, and carelessly edited. The chapter called "The History of Microfilm," for example, is devoted almost exclusively to a retelling of the familiar story of René Dagon and the pigeons; the section on "Tests for Permanence" makes no mention of the widely used ASA standard test; and the only consideration given to copyright problems is a reprinting (as Appendix II) of the Royal Society Declaration of 1949. The publication date is July 1964, but much of the material has not been updated since 1961 or 1962. No mention is made in the chapter on "Rapid Selector Devices" of systems developed since 1961, such as Walnut, CRIS or Miracode, and the chapter on "Microfiche" describes it as "a sheet of film generally 7.5 cm. x 12.5 cm. (3 x 5 inches) in size." The section on "Standards" lists ASA standard Z38.7.17-1946 (which was replaced in 1961 by PH5.6-1961), and PH5.2-1957 (which has been replaced by PH5.2-1963), and it omits entirely a number of other pertinent stan-

dards in the PH1 and PH4 series. Editorial faults are in places gravely misleading. Xerox Copyflo is described by reference to a "figure 29," but what this figure actually shows is the Electrofax method; nowhere is there a drawing illustrating Copyflo, nor a reference to an illustration of Electrofax. Worse, no mention is made of the essential fact that the paper used in the Electrofax process must be specially coated and that ordinary paper cannot be used.

But by all means the most remarkable part of this unfortunate production is the "full bibliography." It contains nothing later than June 1962, and it is riddled with errors. An article from *American Documentation* is listed as 1957 when it was actually October 1950, and another from the same journal is given as "Americ. Doc. 1, 3" when it was actually volume II, pages 167-70. The same page mentions a publication by "Rutjers" and cites another article negligently as "Office, 1961." R. W. Hale's *Guide to Photocopied Historical Materials* is listed under "Bale," and an article by Charles G. LaHood is listed under "Hood." Included in a list of sixteen "Recommended Books" at the end is a novel by Georges Blond and a book by Rider, Fremont called (believe it or not) "Scholar of the Future Research Library."

The final fillip is a one-page "Subject Index" filled with useless headings such as "Accommodation" and "Activity" (to take the first two) and, to top it all off, an entry for "Fremont Rider" under the F's!

Recommended only for the most comprehensive collections.—*Stephen R. Salmon, Washington University.*

Prospects for Library Cooperation in New York City. Planning for More Effective Utilization of Reference and Research Resources. Nelson Associates, Inc. New York: The Firm, 1963. Unpaged.

This study, which was prepared for "an *ad hoc* committee of leading librarians of New York City and State," was obviously designed to set the groundwork so that the research libraries of New York City might participate at the outset in any program of state support to research and reference libraries. It is, therefore, a testament to the foresight and acumen of the *ad hoc* committee and particularly to the organizers of

that committee. The sponsoring group and the nature of the study guarantee the importance of the work, and it is disheartening that in such circumstances the report itself is so poor an achievement.

The city study is interwoven in recent history of library efforts in regard to research and reference libraries in the state, and it cannot be understood fully apart from that record. It is unnecessary to rehearse the multitudinous problems which have beset the larger reference and research libraries in recent years. However, in March 1960 the New York State Commissioner of Education appointed a committee to examine and recommend some solutions to these growing difficulties. In December 1961 the committee's findings were published in *The Report of the Commissioner's Committee on Reference and Research Library Resources*, which soon came to be known as "the 3 R's"—how significantly the 3 R's have changed.

The *Report* called for a state-supported system of regional library associations which by utilizing large libraries within each region, could provide for the reference and research needs of the student and research personnel of that area. It recommended the creation of a central state board which at the outset would aid in the development of regional associations and later would provide the administrative corps to carry on the work of coordinating the seven regional associations into a flexible cooperative network.

In 1962 the State Education department hired Nelson Associates, Inc., to do a pilot study "to determine how the proposed legislation . . . could be implemented in and how it would affect a specific area of the State." Their report of the seven-county area around Rochester was published as *A Reference and Research Plan for the Rochester Area*. The publication recommended a research center at the University of Rochester and a reference center at the Rochester public library. With generous support from the state and with true cooperation, not a one-way street, the plan was deemed practical and essential.

An area of specialized research needs of the state was studied in Ralph T. Esterquest's *Strengthening Medical Library Resources in New York State* (1963), and in