tralia in 1959 and is actually based on visits made in 1957/58 which were in turn preceded by a questionnaire. The University Grants Committee returns of 1955/56 were used as the source of certain factual data.

The work is thus a description of university libraries in Great Britain as they were ten or twelve years ago. It antedates the "new universities," the great increase in university enrollment, and a rather considerable amount of new construction of library buildings at universities. At first sight one might think of it as a companion volume to the Parry Report (U.G.C. Report of the Committee on Libraries. 1967) or as bearing some relation to the Shackleton Report (Oxford University. Report of the Committee on University Libraries. 1966). Except in most general terms, this is not the case.

After describing the purpose of his study and noting some of the disparities between British and Australian universities, Bryan appraises the place of the library in the university in Great Britain. In a series of chapters he undertakes to present a generalized account of university libraries in terms of finance, book stock, buildings, staff, library routine, services, and decentralization. Bryan considers the financial support "not ungenerous," the ingenuity displayed in adapting ill-designed buildings to serve library purposes commendable, and the lack of attention to subject cataloging deplorable. He notes some of the peculiarities of circulation systems and of cataloging procedures and records that are still in use.

In his treatment of acquisitions and cataloging, Bryan underscores the duplication of records and of staff effort that is frequently found because the work is not organized systematically with forms and information passed on from one office or department to another. He describes in some detail the various types of catalogs maintained and notes the lack of use of the B.N.B. printed card service. One might have expected that Bryan would be even more critical than he is on this point because of the potential economy and promptness of service that use of the service would make possible. Although there are undoubtedly some exceptions and although there have been discussions of library automation, it would appear that the situation has undergone few changes in the years that have passed since Bryan's visit.

The second part of the book is devoted to descriptions of each of the university libraries emphasizing special features, notable strengths and regrettable weaknesses as appropriate. Reduced floor plans of many of the libraries visited are included and there is a bibliography of over four hundred items. The book is marked by many typographical errors which even casual proofreading should have eliminated.

The Survey was undoubtedly informative for Mr. Bryan, as it will be to those of his readers who have not had an opportunity to visit these libraries. But changes have occurred since Bryan's survey. Whether its publication may lead to further improvements remains to be seen. Apparently, Mr. Bryan had some experiences in the course of his visits which he found trying and which are unfortunately reflected in some of his remarks.—Stephen A. McCarthy, Association of Research Libraries.


The Library Technology Program of ALA starts a new series—Conservation of Library Materials—with a pamphlet written by Mrs. Carolyn Horton, illustrated by Aldren A. Watson, and devoted to the techniques of cleaning and preserving bindings and related materials.

A clear style and simple illustrations are so expertly combined that any librarian or book collector who isn't all thumbs can do everything described in this pamphlet—and everything that needs to be done is described. This is a practical, elementary manual which presupposes no previous training or experience, and yet even people who think they know a thing or two about preservation will find here such a skillful concentration of professional advice that something new is bound to be added to their knowledge.

The pamphlet is divided into three sections: preparing to recondition a library;
sorting books and identifying problems; and
treatment. Nothing is left to the imagina-
tion of the novice (as indeed it shouldn’t be), and the first section describes such
basic steps as how to improvise work areas,
how to move books, how to keep track of
them as they are sorted and treated.

The section on sorting explains, among
many other things, how to recognize acid
migration, how case bindings are made and
thus what to do with books that are loose
in their cases, how to distinguish between
real and artificial leather in sorting books
for oiling. The suggestion I’m grateful for
is how to deal with the untitled slip case
that has to be separated from its book:
write author, title, and call number on a
large sheet of paper and then crumple it
up inside the case. No more the empty case
that has to be discarded because it won’t
fit any book except the one that returned to
the shelf without it.

The section on treatment is concise, ex-
plicit, and fascinating. It presents the es-
sential facts about preserving leather bind-
ings, explains the need for treating leather
with potassium lactate, tells exactly which
leather dressing to use and how to apply it.
It tells—and of course shows—how to make
simple repairs on torn leaves, how to re-
buid corners, how and where to paste book-
plates.

It also describes how to hinge letters in
books, on the assumption that “in a private
collection or rare-book room, letters from
the author, unless very bulky, are usually
kept with the book” (p. 23). Mrs. Horton
is justified in describing the proper way
to hinge letters in books but I doubt that
most experienced rare book librarians would
recommend it. Perhaps in the second edition
(which is certain to be called for) she
would describe the technique but accentu-
ate her alternative suggestion of filing the
letter in a separate folder “where it can-
not damage the book in any way” (p. 25).

A detailed table of contents substitutes
for an index, while the back matter consists
of a glossary, a list of supplies and equip-
ment mentioned in the text (all used by
Mrs. Horton or known by her to be in
general use and to perform in an acceptable
manner), a list of stores where the supplies
can be bought, and a selected bibliography.

The pamphlet is printed on 8¼ x 11-inch
‘Permalife’ paper, has wide margins, large
type, and a stylish blending of text and il-
ustration. Its permanence, its pleasing ap-
pearance are singularly appropriate for a
manual that will be in constant use by
everybody concerned with preserving books.
—Marjorie G. Wynne, The Beinecke Rare
Book and Manuscript Library, Yale Uni-
versity.

EDUNET: A Report of the Summer Study
on Information Networks Conducted by
the Interuniversity Communications
Council (EDUCOM). By George W.
Brown, James G. Miller, Thomas A. Keen-
$3.95. (67-21328).

With a $750,000 grant from the Kellogg
Foundation the Interuniversity Communi-
cations Council came into existence and joined
the ranks of organizations that are con-
cerned with developing cooperative pro-
grams among colleges and universities. The
Council was the brainchild of James A.
Miller of the University of Michigan, who
was responsible for obtaining the five-year
grant, organizing the initial programs, and
steering the new activity on a course that
has been grandiose and ambitious and holds
the promise of great potential for the edu-
cational community. Dr. Miller, a physician
by training, while stressing the importance
of cooperative efforts in all fields, was par-
ticularly interested in having the new organ-
ization act as a unified voice for the edu-
cational world in matters of educational
and communications technology. Such an
organization could work with government
and industry as an equal partner to insure
that its point of view was always repre-
sented.

The initial efforts of the Council were
of an organizational nature, and time was
spent identifying means by which it could
carry out its mission and develop action
programs. As the number of member uni-
versities and colleges grew, the Council
focused its attention on specific programs
for exchanging and sharing intellectual and
human, library and computer resources.
Great attention was also given to the need
for utilizing all available technology, such