Bookmaking, but British colleagues especially might well opt for either Jennett or Williamson. Libraries, needless to say, will purchase all four whenever the budget will allow, but Mr. Wilson’s book is first among equals.—William R. Eshelman, Wilson Library Bulletin.


The primary purpose of this simply written handbook is to acquaint college and university presidents, deans, rectors, and other academic officials in the developing countries with the full meaning and value of their institutions’ libraries. Such a book has been much needed, because, second perhaps only to poor faculty attitude, lack of strong administrative support and understanding has probably been the major impediment in the way of improving library service in such institutions—often a more effective barrier even than the absence of adequate funds.

In his admirable effort to educate these laymen who are so important to academic libraries, Dr. Gelfand addresses himself lucidly and cogently to all of the major and many of the minor problems that have so long and so miserably plagued libraries in the developing countries. He points to the critical need for adequate status for librarians; he demonstrates the great benefits that can derive from centralized library administration; he presents the rationale for open stacks; he deplores the pernicious results of too great librarian accountability; he explains the need for intra- as well as inter-institutional library cooperation. These and many other similar little essays make the book almost an extended position paper on modern academic library management theory and practice—a kind of professional apologia pro vita sua.

Dr. Gelfand draws widely for illustrative examples, first upon his own extensive experience working with libraries in the “have-not” countries, second upon the literature and work of librarianship in the developing countries, third upon the experiences of the libraries of Europe, and finally and unobtrusively upon American librarianship. Appropriately for a Unesco Manual, the resulting amalgam reads like the professional travelogue of a bibliothecal cosmopolite, as the floor plans of the library of Ahmadu Bello University follow discussion of the cooperative acquisitions program of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft; as an explanation of the Library Board of Ghana and a description of the Regional Seminar on the Development of University Libraries in Latin America precede an account of fungicides developed by the Lenin State Library and a picture of a reading room in Douglass College library at Rutgers University. Perhaps in no other treatise has the world confraternity of academic librarianship been more dramatically displayed.

Although college and university administrators are the primary audience to whom Dr. Gelfand is speaking, there is much in the book that is of value to librarians as well. This is a good small textbook for courses in university library administration, discussing as it does both simply and well such diverse but important topics as university libraries in national development; the role of the university library; government and control of the university library; its organization and administration; staff and collection development; organizing the collections; reader’s services; auxiliary and supplementary services; cooperative activities; library buildings and equipment; financial administration; and evaluating library services.

Morris A. Gelfand’s University Libraries for Developing Countries is an important addition to the growing series of “Unesco Manuals for Librarians.”—D.K.


This doctoral dissertation, prepared for the school of library service at Columbia University with financial assistance from the Canada Council, is a valuable addition to the collection of surveys of Canadian libraries that have been published during