

ticularly of those from a military environment (SAGE, NORAD, Strategic Air Command, etc.), generally called "command and control" systems. Such an emphasis is a natural one, since it has represented the major concern of the authors in their professional work at System Development Corporation, but it means that readers with different kinds of information systems in mind must be prepared to translate and interpret what is said in the light of their own concerns.

For example, Chapter 1 presents the basic definitions of "information," "system analysis," and the "development process." The concept of an "information system" is defined as "the formal or rationally planned means whereby managers receive and transmit information." The author goes on to say, "It may include automatic data processing as one aspect of the information-handling apparatus assisting management, but it may also include oral briefings." The emphasis is clear, proper, and very descriptive of the book. But the reader whose concern is, say, "scientific and technical information systems" will need to translate "managers" into "researchers" and "oral briefings" into "journals, printed reports, and Colleagues."

Chapter 2, in discussing some of the problems in over-all management of the development process, draws an illuminating contrast between "hardware systems" and "information systems" in order to emphasize the extent to which agencies procuring the latter may be using irrelevant criteria for decision concerning their utility. The reader will want to consider just as carefully the extent of differences between *his* information system and that represented by military command and control.

Chapter 3, which discusses "The System Requirements Phase," raises some issues of special importance. It contrasts several approaches to the transition from present operations—including "totally integrated system design" and "planned evolution." The latter seems to have particular relevance to those, such as libraries, whose "information system" is not simply a management tool but their very reason for existence.

Chapter 4 discusses the steps in the

"design process," again with emphasis on the military command and control system. As a result, "retrieval" is given scant attention and yet, in a library, it is likely to be the most significant technical problem.

Chapter 5 discusses the design and production of computer programs. The experience on which it is based is particularly illuminating and well presented. The estimates of time and manpower should be read with care, since the programming of any kind of computer-based information system is a complex, expensive task.

Chapters 6, 7, 8, and 10 present the issues in development of the operating organization, in design of procedures, in training of personnel, and in system evaluation. These are particularly subject to change from one type of system to another since they affect the organization itself and not simply the computer. The reader will need to examine them closely. On the other hand, Chapter 9 discusses "installation" and raises issues of universal concern.

In summary, this book is a well conceived, well written, and highly readable presentation of the issues in the development of "military command and control systems." As examples of information systems, they have many features in common with libraries and technical information centers, but there are also some significant differences, and the reader will need to keep his own situation continually in mind.—*Robert M. Hayes—UCLA.*

Bibliography, Current State and Future Trends. By Robert B. Downs and Frances B. Jenkins, eds. Urbana: Illinois University Press, 1967. 611p. \$8.95. (67-21851).

The volume under review is a reissue of the January and April 1967 issues of *Library Trends*. The two well known and highly respected editors were obviously of the opinion, and probably rightly so, that a republication in book form would be a welcome addition to our professional literature. I doubt that reference librarians will prefer this book to their well established tools such as Winchell, Walford, and Totok. I am certain that the subject specialist will hardly profit by it, but teachers and

students of bibliography will find it a useful textbook and a good general introduction.

The editors' statement that Van Hoesen and Walter's *Bibliography* (New York: 1928) was the last previous attempt to provide a comprehensive review of all the approaches to bibliography has to be taken with a grain of salt. A number of excellent handbooks have been published within the last year such as Collison and *Enciclopedia de orientacion bibliografica* (edited by Tomas Zamarrigo), and the two giants in the field of bibliography of bibliographies, Besterman and Malclès, will not be easily surpassed in the near future. The new Downs-Jenkins *Bibliography* is, however, organized differently from the two titles just cited and can legitimately claim a distinguished place on our shelves.

The book consists of thirty-seven independent articles which are grouped into four sections. (1) GENERAL, two papers. (Section 3 will seem to some the more logical place for the "Paperback book."); (2) NATIONAL, two papers. The essay by James B. Childs on "Government Publications," a truly masterly synthesis, going somewhat beyond the title of the section; (3) TYPES OF MATERIAL, four papers; (4) SUBJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY, twenty-nine papers.

It is regrettable that no author could be found to discuss bibliographical control of microreproduction, dissertations, and publications of learned societies, illustrated books, European history, etc. Most *humaniora* are pressed together in an *omnium gatherum* called "Continental European Literature." The essay covers Europe from Mycenae to the *Year's Work in Russian Studies*, taking in *en passant* the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and present-day European literature in most languages. In spite of the skill and the well known knowledge of the author, the reader is slightly bewildered and confused.

All authors represented in the volume, without exception, are competent specialists in their fields, and their contributions make worthwhile reading. However, obviously only a small sample of them can be mentioned. Vincent Duckles, author of the standard bibliography *Music Reference and Research Materials* (2d ed. New York: Free

Press, 1967), performs his task with ease and skill. William H. Huff gives to the reader far more than one could surmise from the short title "Periodicals"; his summary of computer and information retrieval is extremely useful. Frederick R. Goff, for a score of years chief of the rare book division of the Library of Congress and editor of the third edition of *Incunabula in American Libraries* (1964), has the bibliography of his field at his fingertips. Nettie Lee Benson is an internationally known authority on Latin American studies, and her all-too-short essay is a good introduction into the complexities of her field. Ernst Wolff is able to give an almost complete survey of Far Eastern bibliography, whereas Cecil Hobbs chooses to write a fascinating general introduction to the history and culture of Southern Asia (India and Southeast Asia). The use of the two authors' make of footnotes is indicative of their goals; Wolff has seventy bibliographical footnotes, Hobbs has none. Joseph C. Shipman has performed his most difficult task "General Science" with admirable skill.

A few tiny corrections can be submitted. The *British National Bibliography* had stopped listing Irish imprints by 1961 but resumes their inclusion in 1968. There are a few rather incomplete attempts at preparing national union catalogs of medieval manuscripts, for instance the card catalog of manuscripts in German up to 1520 at the German Academy of Sciences in Berlin. The Soho bibliographies published by Rupert Hart-Davis would have been a good example to show what excellent work is being done today in covering modern English authors bibliographically. Almost all authors neglect to mention that the most frequently used subject approach to scholarly literature is being provided by each library's own card catalog. The usefulness of this tool, which we all too often take for granted, was again brought out in a recent conference (Dagmar H. Perman, ed. *Bibliography and the Historian, the Conference at Belmont*. Santa Barbara: Clio, 1968). Historians expressed general dissatisfaction with all available bibliographies. "Only the Library Catalog escaped serious criticism," (page 12).

Most contributors, some in almost iden-

tical terminology, express their grave concern about the quantity of modern publications and look forward to a computerized panacea which will solve all difficulties. The real scholarly problem, however, is not the issue of bibliographical recording but the question of one's ability to read all these books.

A work like the one under review which consists of thirty-seven independent papers shows a great variety of style, approach, working habits, and presentation. Because of this variety of treatment the need for coalescing the content in an all embracing and comprehensive index appears imperative. The last forty pages of this book, however, which are devoted to this task do not meet these requirements. It is most regrettable that the publisher placed the two editors under such a time pressure that they could not compile adequate access to the vast and important material contained in their book. We all know that the exhaustive index is the most important approach to the intellectual content of a book and that neither time nor money should be spared in giving fullest accessibility.

It would be unfair to close this review on such a critical note. The editors and contributors have provided a notable publication; for many years to come all librarians will depend heavily upon the Downs-Jenkins *Bibliography*.—*Felix Reichmann, Cornell University.*

70 Years of Best Sellers, 1895-1965. By Alice Payne Hackett. New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 1967. xi, 280p. \$7.90. (67-25025).

Prompt recognition was accorded to Alice Hackett's records and comments on best sellers when her first compilation, *Fifty Years of Best Sellers*, appeared in 1946. A third edition now brings records of seventy years up to date, covering the years 1895-1965. This is a welcome continuation of the two preceding editions, the second one having been published in 1956.

Miss Hackett attempts to present information about American best sellers; she comments on and interprets, to some extent, statistics and trends but does not evaluate the titles from a literary point of

view. The book is divided into sections which deal with best sellers in hard bound and paperback form; best-seller subjects; best sellers by years; early best sellers; and books and articles about best sellers.

The reason for beginning the story about best sellers in the year 1895 is that it was in that year that the first best-seller lists were printed in the United States. Harry Thurston Peck, editor of the literary magazine, *The Bookman*, began to run each month the lists of best-selling books in a large number of cities. From the *Bookman* lists, annual best-seller lists were compiled, and in 1912 the *Publishers' Weekly* began a best-seller listing.

This year in which the first American best-seller lists were published was in the era of bicycles and the Gibson girl. Rural free delivery was begun in that year and this event was to have a notable effect upon merchandising of every kind, including the selling of books.

Best sellers are of interest to publishers for obvious reasons. When books have large sales, people who do not ordinarily buy books become aware of them and even purchase them. Sales stimulate sales. After book sales there are sales of subsidiary rights, especially movie and television rights. Other subsidiary returns to authors and publishers are condensation, magazine serialization, play production, book-club distribution, paperback reprint, and publication in foreign countries.

The over-all list of best sellers in this seventy-year compilation comprises titles which have sold one million copies or more. Highly publicized fiction, topical nonfiction, and children's books have usually had large sales. Best sellers of all times have included the Bible and books on religious themes, cookbooks, crime and suspense stories, novelty and game books, poetry and drama (the smallest group), reference books, and westerns.

The lists in this book are interesting and could well be the subject of many research studies. They provide insight into the thinking and emotions of a people and have more significance than a casual glance indicates. Social, political, economic, and philosophical undertones are implied and intermingled herein. Students of literary history could