value as well as the appendix which gives
the examination questions from previous
years. Some pertinent monographs are con­
tained in the bibliography of suggested
readings, but a heavy emphasis on public
library titles is evident. Despite the lucid
style and a few informative chapters, the
general paucity of descriptive or inter­
pretive information makes this volume in­
appropriate for general library purchase.
—James Foyle, University of Denver.

Computerized Library Catalogs: Their
Growth, Cost, and Utility. By J. L. Dol­
by; V. J. Forsyth; and H. L. Resnikoff.

The principal value of this book is as a
catalog of considerations relevant to the
design of mechanized catalog production
systems. Some research results and some
suggestions on specific design features are
presented. The book is particularly recom­
mented to library administrators and li­
brary systems analysts. Computer jargon
is used only when necessary, and, when
used, is defined for the nontechnical reader.
The “growth” in the title is dealt with
in terms of the fact that libraries tend to
grow at an exponential rate. Estimating
the growth rate for individual libraries can
be difficult because of the unavailability of
reliable statistical data. A method of using
imprint dates as a basis for such estimates
is suggested. In addition, an original meth­
od of predicting the language breakdown
of future acquisitions is presented. Using
this method, the authors predict that for­
eign-language materials will constitute a
constantly increasing percentage of future
acquisitions of research libraries—a predic­
tion that will be of interest to all library
administrators.

A chapter entitled “An Analysis of Cost
Factors” concentrates on hardware-related
costs. It includes a particularly lucid sec­
tion on the problems of choosing a pro­
gramming language, and a useful com­
parison of input devices. The claimed po­
tential for cost savings should be viewed
warily, since it is not clear what costs are
included in those presented. A brief ap­
pendix to this chapter, surveying some
linguistic data manipulation languages, will
probably not interest the nontechnical
reader. Another chapter, on typography
and format, discusses the important prob­
lem of achieving maximum information
density on the printed page while main­
taining legibility.

Among other values of the book are a
stimulating discussion of publication sched­
ules for book catalogs and supplements, and
a chapter on automatic error detection.
It is regrettable (but easily explained
by the paucity of work on the problem)
that the latter does not concern itself with
the more general question of automatic
editing, since a hefty portion of the cost
of most mechanized cataloging systems is
attributable to the necessity of human edit­
ing. In backfile conversion projects espe­
cially, it appears that automatic editing
routines could be devised that would prof­
itably make use of the large amount of
organization already present in catalog
record data.

On-line catalogs are not discussed,
probably because, for most libraries, it now is,
or shortly will be, feasible to use com­
puters to produce human-readable cata­
logs (perhaps in microform), while plac­
ing the catalog on line is a possibility only
for the more distant future. A more seri­
ous shortcoming is the failure to discuss
the use of machine-readable catalog rec­
ords acquired from extramural sources.
There are serious problems to be solved
before local systems can make effective
use of such records, but their availability
will radically affect the costs of mechaniz­
ing catalog production. Nothing in the
present book is invalidated when external­
ly produced catalog records are consid­
ered, but to the extent that they are
available, they must be taken into ac­
count in system design.—Kelley L. Cart­
wright, University of California, Berke­ley.

Directory of Library Consultants. Ed. by
John Berry III. New York: R. R. Bowker
Co., 1969. 141p. $10.75.

It seems to me that this volume will,
because it is enumerative and not evalu­
a tive, serve a very limited purpose. Li­
brarians of large libraries usually know who
the real experts are for the projects for
which consultation help is needed. Repre­
sentatives of small libraries probably do
not know this and they cannot find out