

value as well as the appendix which gives the examination questions from previous years. Some pertinent monographs are contained 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 interpretive information makes this volume inappropriate for general library purchase.—*James Foyle, University of Denver.*

Computerized Library Catalogs: Their Growth, Cost, and Utility. By J. L. Dolby; V. J. Forsyth; and H. L. Resnikoff. Cambridge: M.I.T. Press, 1969.

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 recommended to library administrators and library 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 method of predicting the language breakdown of future acquisitions is presented. Using this method, the authors predict that foreign-language materials will constitute a constantly increasing percentage of future acquisitions of research libraries—a prediction 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 section on the problems of choosing a programming language, and a useful comparison of input devices. The claimed potential for cost savings should be viewed warily, since it is not clear what costs are included in those presented. A brief appendix 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 problem of achieving maximum information density on the printed page while maintaining legibility.

Among other values of the book are a stimulating discussion of publication schedules 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 editing. In backfile conversion projects especially, it appears that automatic editing routines could be devised that would profitably make use of the large amount of organization already present in catalog card data.

On-line catalogs are not discussed, probably because, for most libraries, it now is, or shortly will be, feasible to use computers to produce human-readable catalogs (perhaps in microform), while placing the catalog on line is a possibility only for the more distant future. A more serious shortcoming is the failure to discuss the use of machine-readable catalog records 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 mechanizing catalog production. Nothing in the present book is invalidated when externally produced catalog records are considered, but to the extent that they are available, they must be taken into account in system design.—*Kelley L. Cartwright, 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 evaluative, serve a very limited purpose. Librarians of large libraries usually know who the real experts are for the projects for which consultation help is needed. Representatives of small libraries probably do not know this and they cannot find out