ject heading list.” Such condensed statements imply an awareness of procedures and techniques not normally common to the graduate student.

Nevertheless, for these very reasons, i.e., scope, technical complexity, and variety, this volume should have wide application. The cases present admirable organizing centers for instruction. The studies could be particularly valuable for in-service training. A staff engrossed in its own particular problems might well profit from engaging in problem-solving techniques using one or more of these cases. Discussion of hypothetical situations and development of model solutions by the staff could be a managerial tool in devising methods for problem-solving in the real world by the same staff members.

The worker in the field can profit by reading the studies, if only for reassurance that his or her particularly pressing problems are shared on a large scale by all sectors of the profession.—Gloria Terwilliger, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus.


When Bowker made its rather low-keyed announcement that they would publish a multivolume history of American publishing written by John Tebbel, the well known popularizer, we were skeptical and not a little alarmed at the audacity of both author and publisher. However, it now appears, if the first volume can be considered typical of those to come, that our skepticism was unjustified; for Tebbel has written a clear, well organized, and detailed synthesis of American publishing history to the Civil War, and while the whole project still strikes us as audacious, we feel compelled to compliment both the author and publisher for the remarkable success they have achieved with this first volume. Tebbel has presented an enormous amount of specialized information on the subject in a readable fashion, and happily has broadly defined “American publishing” to include the history of bookselling, copyright, children’s books, and a multitude of other subjects. Some scholars will be critical of the lack of a bibliography in this volume, and yet, the recent publication of Tanselle’s Guide to the Study of United States Imprints, really makes such pedantry superfluous in a work of this kind. Scholars who have worked the major manuscript collections relating to this period, such as the Carey, Thomas, and McCarty-Davis papers at the American Antiquarian Society, will doubtless find fault with various aspects of this work, and it is lightly sprinkled throughout with those factual errors and stylistic slips which are to be expected in a work of this magnitude, but these matters really become mere quibbles when measured against the high quality of the whole work. Tebbel’s History of Book Publishing in the United States should be acquired by all libraries, large or small, which profess any interest at all in the history of American publishing, and if the succeeding volumes (two more are projected) are of equal merit, this work should easily become the standard history of publishing in the United States for years to come.—Michael H. Harris, Associate Professor, College of Library Science, University of Kentucky, Lexington.


My initial response to this book was negative. I actually wrote a review which, if not truly scathing, was at least derogatory. Things I didn’t like (and still don’t): paperbacks that cost $10.00, books that have no index (especially reference books), books that are five years out of date the day they are published, and books that are created by direct transcription from tape recordings. This volume commits all those sins, but it does have its virtues.

Academic librarians about to embark on a new building program can find help here. Although only eight academic library buildings are analyzed they represent a wide
variety of problems from the major-library-in-a-metropolitan-setting (New York University) to the special use problems of a geological library (Stanford), and the persistent building planner may find the very problem he is struggling with has been tackled and solved elsewhere. For each of the eight academic buildings there is a floor plan, for most of them there are illustrations of the facades, and a few have site-diagrams. The resulting spectrum of problems and solutions is impressive. The illustrations are well placed in relationship to the text they supplement.

In addition to excellent illustrations and variety of building types a third virtue of this volume is the occasional spark of tell-it-like-it-is as when, near the beginning, Robert Rohlf quotes from the minutes of a librarians' conference in 1877 the description of a book retrieval device virtually identical to the modern Bibliophone system. Mr. Rohlf's comment is, "... we are still discussing the same type of thing, but now we are calling it automation." And other librarians speak out forthrightly also, for example a sentence from Keyes Metcalf's critique of a building, "As it is now, you have an 18-foot ceiling over the main book-stacks all the way around, which seems to me to be perfectly absurd."

In summary, if you buy architectural or library literature for your collection you must buy this book—then you have to pay extra money to have it bound, and then you have to listen to the users of it complain about no index and the fact that it is five years out of date; but if you (and they) are persistent you may find it useful and even occasionally entertaining.—W. David Laird, University Librarian, University of Arizona, Tucson.


This volume is a collection of sixty-eight papers that resulted from the 1969 USOE Media Institute, Systems and Standards for the Bibliographic Control of Media. The efforts of forty-nine contributors (from library, audiovisual, and information science fields, and Canada, Great Britain, and the United States) are represented here. The text is edited from taped transcripts of the institute proceedings. Although the editors were kind enough to spare readers a verbatim transcription of the meetings, they have retained enough of the discussion to capture the flavor of the sessions. Audience commentary appears now in the midst of a presentation, now at the end. Authors of the papers are named, but identification of discussion participants is erratic. The length of the volume makes such a format rather weary reading. The presentations are grouped into ten sections, each section with a short introduction. A good index and bibliography are appended.

The book is heralded as "the first volume to present the best of current thinking on systems and standards for the control of audiovisual material throughout the world" (dustjacket blurb). With regard to international coverage this statement is inaccurate. Only one paper (by Jules Leni on the activities of the International Film and Television Council) out of sixty-eight considers bibliographic control of nonprint media in countries other than Canada, Great Britain, and the United States. Current thought on systems and standards for the control of audiovisual materials in the English-speaking world would have been a more appropriate claim (although Australia and New Zealand are still excluded).

From the papers and discussion produced by this institute two conclusions are drawn: (1) "nonprint media is not presently organized for its intelligent selection and utilization"; and (2) "professional bibliographers in the Association for Educational Communications and Technology, the Educational Film Library Association, the American Society for Information Science, and the American Library Association have failed to establish standards, while commercial companies, less constrained by tradition, are answering the cries of collectors and users with incompatible schemes, codes, and forms of bibliographic entry" (page xix). Much interesting information is presented in support of these conclusions.

A major purpose of the institute and its resultant publication seems to have been to publicize the need for better bibliographic control of nonbook media. In this