merely to show and comment on the relationship of listed activities to the data gathered from the survey results.

For any planner deciding on the menu of activities for a network and needing suggestions on how to get there, Guidelines will be a useful tool. The ingredients will not all be applicable, and there will be a pinch more of this and a teaspoon less of that, but it will serve as a point of departure from which adjustments can be made to reflect local goals, resources, and needs. That is, after all, what library cooperation is all about.—Donald D. Hendricks, Director of the Library, The University of Texas Health Science Center, Dallas, Texas.


This is an exceptionally well done coverage of a topic vital to library practice as well as computer-based reference retrieval. It focuses its attention on vocabulary control and presents virtually every relevant aspect in a lucid, well organized, thoroughly illustrated, and technically informed manner. The professional in the field will find it as valuable as the student and teacher.

The content can roughly be divided into three parts:

1) A general classification of various kinds of vocabularies, with a more detailed description of each (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 19).

2) An analysis of the various steps in creating and maintaining a vocabulary (Chapters 6, 17, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12).

3) A discussion of the use of a vocabulary (or set of them) (Chapters 13, 24; 14, 15, 16; 20, 21, 22, 23; and 18).

The general classification is now a classic one: precoordinated vocabularies (subject headings and classifications) and postcoordinated ones (thesauri and more restrictive word lists). While making this division, Lancaster is careful to point out that the distinctions, although conceptually clear, are blurred in practice. The detailed discussions are richly illustrated with examples and thorough comparative analyses.

The processing steps discussed include generating the vocabulary conceptually, pragmatically, and mechanically (the latter as part of an excellent discussion of automatic indexing and classification), organizing and displaying it, establishing standards for it, providing reference structures for it, and updating it. A full chapter is devoted to a discussion of the use of computers in carrying out these processes. Again, a wealth of specific examples are presented, each with illustrations, analyses, and comparisons.

To his discussion of the use of vocabularies, especially in evaluation of their influence on system performance, Lancaster brings his own knowledge of this crucial issue. Since he has previously written about the criteria and procedures for evaluating performance, he simply summarizes them here, but then pays specific attention to the causes of retrieval failure due to vocabulary. The discussions of forms of syntax and other rules for use of a vocabulary, of auxiliary devices for reducing failures due to vocabulary (such as links, roles, and other relational indicators), or “natural language” uses, and of compatibility between languages are all equally well informed and well illustrated. Special attention is paid to the uses of vocabulary in “on-line” situations.

In summary, this book is heartily recommended to everyone concerned with the field of information retrieval.—Robert M. Hayes, Executive Vice-President, Becker & Hayes Inc., Los Angeles, California.


The pun in the title is intended, of course, for here is a collection of 30-odd poems, stories, and articles on revolting librarians—those who revolt against the system and those who are revolting because they are the system. Ms. Katz and Ms. West are well known around the San Francisco Bay Area as members of the former group. Celeste is currently editor of Synergy, the graphically (and intellectually) exciting publication of the Bay Area Reference Center; Elizabeth is part-time librarian in the San Francisco Public Library.

Visually the book resembles Synergy. I recommend that you at least look at it even
if you don’t read it. The text is decorated
with interesting drawings (study the title
page carefully) and what the eds. call “or­
ganic lettering” challenging even the
straightest-faced to smile a little.

Just to whet your appetite, here are some
of the titles: “The Liberation of Sweet Li­
brary Lips,” “How to Annihilate Service to
Teenagers,” “Sex and the Single Cataloger,”
“Library School Lunacy” and “The Recruit­
er Speaks (with forked tongue in both
cheeks).”

Getting the idea? Then I’ll proceed with
a few words on the text. The book is divided
into sections on library rules, outreach pro­
grams, organization and administration, al­
ternatives, library literature, prospects for
the future and the image of librarians. The
editors sprinkle the tome with their own
comments and end it with biographical
statements about the collaborators (includ­ing
their astrological signs).

The image mentioned above is—how did
you guess?—that miserable one we’ve all
been battling: the mean, bunned o.m. I re­
pet Richard Moses’ poem: “Old­made la­
dies/ sipping custom’s tea/ sweet sugar
smiles/ to hide a lemon’s longing.” Art
Plotnik relates his feelings about silence and
the results of daring to publish a NO Si­
LENCE sign in the centerfold of Wilson Li­
brary Bulletin. (As the eds. point out, he is
also known for his observation that “Li­
brarianship is not all glamour.”) Kathleen
Glab asks if you’ve ever met a sensuous li­
brarian. Since she knows you probably
haven’t, she generously gives a few tips on
becoming one. “Move your whole body and
not just your index finger. Make your library
a place of pleasure as well as a place of
learning.”

In the “officious orthodoxy” section we
are reminded of (and, I hope, embarrassed
about) subject headings, library school, and
other absurdities. And we are treated to a
play called “Phddt,” in which the cast is a
library school faculty discussing how to
avoid anything resembling librarianship.

Sanford Berman complains about the fail­
ure of libraries to represent the counter­
culture. More articles follow about outreach
to migrant workers in N.J. and attempted
service to young adults in Orange County,
California. (“What other library had an
armed and uniformed policeman stationed
in the YA study areas during peak evening
hours? Can responsible librarians justify
treating any group of patrons as though
they were a plague of locusts?”) “The Tur­
key Trot in Dallas” attacks misguided chil­
dren’s lit people.

Organization and administration are hit
next. Judy Hadley points out that the para­
profs and student assistants are human be­
ings and have talent and brains. Shannon
Patterson asks supervisors “Just what are
you administering?” and Joan Dillon de­
fends unionization.

Probably the best article (though the
most depressing) is “We Lost It at the Li­
brary,” in which Mary McKenny and Edith
Ericson recall how they were conned into
a library supposedly run as a participatory
democracy. If the rest of this book gives
you hope for change, look out. These wom­
en will jolt you back to reality. They
thought they had found Utopia but were
bitterly deceived.

This is a book you will read in one night.
Although the pieces are uneven—some
naive and poorly written—you will probably
want to read them all. They are cries for
help and understanding from a vocal and
growing part of our community.—Georg­
ia Mulligan, Information Unlimited, Berkeley,
California.

Baumann, Charles H. The Influence of
Angus Sneed Macdonald and the Sneed
Bookstack on Library Architecture.
307p.

Baumann employs well documented re­
search which provides the reader with in­
sights into understanding Angus Sneed
Macdonald’s impact on library design for
almost a half a century. However, insights
into Macdonald’s more personal life are sad­
ly lacking. The author admits that it was
“difficult to talk separately of Angus Sneed
Macdonald and Sneed and Company.” This
reviewer feels that Mr. Baumann could have
overcome this difficulty by sketching more
fully all sides of Macdonald’s life. The read­
er can’t help but want to know more about
Macdonald after reading this book.

The author is thorough when he relates
Macdonald’s early contributions to library
construction such as his desire to standard­
ize stack construction by defining the 3 foot