

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.*

Lancaster, F. W. **Vocabulary Control for Information Retrieval**, Information Resources Press, 1972.

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.*

West, Celeste, and Katz, Elizabeth, eds. **Revolting Librarians**. San Francisco: Booklegger Press, 1972. Distributed by the American Library Association, Chicago. 158p. \$2.00 ppd.

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 "organic 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 Library Lips," "How to Annihilate Service to Teenagers," "Sex and the Single Cataloger," "Library School Lunacy" and "The Recruiter 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 programs, organization and administration, alternatives, 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 repeat Richard Moses' poem: "Old-made ladies/ 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 SILENCE sign in the centerfold of *Wilson Library Bulletin*. (As the eds. point out, he is also known for his observation that "Librarianship is not all glamour.") Kathleen Glab asks if you've ever met a sensuous librarian. 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 failure 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 Turkey Trot in Dallas" attacks misguided children's lit people.

Organization and administration are hit next. Judy Hadley points out that the para-profs and student assistants are human beings and have talent and brains. Shannon Patterson asks supervisors "Just what are you administering?" and Joan Dillon defends unionization.

Probably the best article (though the most depressing) is "We Lost It at the Library," 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 women 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.—*Georgia Mulligan, Information Unlimited, Berkeley, California.*

Baumann, Charles H. *The Influence of Angus Snead Macdonald and the Snead Bookstack on Library Architecture*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1972. 307p.

Baumann employs well documented research which provides the reader with insights into understanding Angus Snead Macdonald's impact on library design for almost a half a century. However, insights into Macdonald's more personal life are sadly lacking. The author admits that it was "difficult to talk separately of Angus Snead Macdonald and Snead and Company." This reviewer feels that Mr. Baumann could have overcome this difficulty by sketching more fully all sides of Macdonald's life. The reader 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 standardize stack construction by defining the 3 foot