the data or specifications by which one de-
veloped it, it may safely be assumed that
the model will be found to work beautifully.
Further evidence can be found in the
repeated misinterpretation of charts, data,
and other authors' statements. Second, al-
though the author is attempting to study
library-related activities, she gives every in-
dication of not knowing, and not caring to
find out, how libraries work, and what li-
brarians see themselves as doing. Third,
general presentation is inexcusably sloppy;
errors with the comment that they are far
too copious for a doctoral dissertation, and
a commercially published one at that. Like-
wise a writing style which is pervasively
lazy (figures are always 'very interesting'
or the information explosion 'very serious',
etc.) one can live with. The many lapses
of sentential logic in the narrative, how-
ever, become a real obstacle to comprehen-
sion. An author's argument in one sentence
became "this fact" in the next; chemists are
assumed at one point to be unconcerned
with a journal's editorial policy, at another,
to be consciously utilizing it, etc. Writing
like the following should never have passed
so much scrutiny: "Although much research
has shown that the average chemist limits
his reading to only a few hours a week,
there seems to be a prevailing idea that he
would be a more creative (or productive)
chemist if he read more. Though many sur-
veys show that the creative scientist reads
on the average more than the noncreative
scientist the occurrence of these phenomena
gives no justification for assuming that
what is being observed is a cause and ef-
fect phenomenon. There is no inherent
knowledge in the printed or the spoken
word. Creativity in the chemist, like crea-
tivity in anyone else, takes place in the
mind of the individual. That this creativity
may be stimulated by colleagues, by read-
ing the published literature, or by hundreds
of other ways may very well be true; but it
may not be true." (p. 112.)
Kent, in his foreword, far from giving
any support to a student who is in a thorny
predicament at least partly, one must con-
clude, due to a lack of useful guidance,
leaves the unmistakable impression that his
main aim is to disassociate himself from
the whole embarrassing affair. He largely
avoids discussing the work he is supposed
to be introducing and what he gives us in-
stead is self-serving reminiscence, abysmal
punishing, unrelated generalities, and bad
grammar of his own variety.
The whole production leaves a sorry im-
pression of library and information science
education at the Ph.D. level.—Peter G.
Watson, Head, Center for Information Ser-
sives, University of California at Los An-
geles Library.

Reichmann, Felix and Tharpe, Josephine
M., Bibliographic Control of Micro-
forms. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood

In acknowledgement of the need for im-
proved bibliographic control of microforms,
the Association of Research Libraries, un-
der contract with the Office of Education,
sponsored a study "to determine the ele-
ments of an effective system of bibliograph-
ic control of microforms which would per-
mit the expeditious selection, acquisition,
cataloging and use of micropublication both
current and retrospective." The book under
review is the product of this study.

Major findings include the following: cat-
aloging, shelving, and classification prac-
tices vary enormously; many libraries fail
to report their microform holdings to the
National Register of Microform Masters;
analytics for microform series are not ade-
quately represented in public catalogs. As
the ultimate solution to these problems, the
authors recommend that "a national, ma-
chine-readable index to microform publica-
tions should be established."

Reichmann and Tharpe solicited informa-
tion from "250 American libraries and
scholarly organizations and about 150
foreign institutions through approximately
1,500 letters and scores of telephone calls."
The results of this monumental enterprise
are documented in thirty-three pages of
text. Almost half of that space is devoted
to a description of micropublishing activi-
ties in some seventy foreign countries; ad-
dresses of agencies engaged in production
and sale of microcopy are given. Thus the
bulk of the analytic study itself is limited
to just a few pages. As much as the authors'
aim of conciseness is to be applauded, it be-
comes all too obvious to the reader that
such a concentrated treatment cannot pos-
sibly do justice to the complex and far-
reaching subject matter. Significant issues
are either ignored, or, at best, granted summary attention. No attempt is made to isolate the components of the existing bibliographic maze; nor are the expected benefits of the proposed machine-readable index delineated in any detail. To cite but one example: libraries’ inability to cope with the filing of analytics is identified as a major problem in bibliographic control; and yet, the extent to which the proposed machine-readable index would alleviate the need to continue filing analytics in public catalogs is not discussed.

Four appendixes are added to the body of the text:

1. The United States Government as microform publisher.
3. American university presses that plan to publish microforms.
4. A microform bibliography, with the cooperation of Suzanne Dodson and Laura L. Jennings.

Appendixes 1 and 3 appear to be largely superfluous. Appendix 2 is a brief outline, showing “a possible method of using the computer and associated hardware devices to produce one or more indexes to be used as a finding tool to the material contained in microsets.”

Appendix 4 represents the book’s principal contribution. Although the authors confide their misgivings at including the microform bibliography in their final report, being “woefully aware of its shortcomings both in admissions and omissions,” the bibliography does constitute a useful tool; 493 items are listed, subdivided in four categories:

1. Catalogs and Lists.
2. Collections and Series.
3. Manuscripts and Archival Collections.

A good index, and a bibliography of related literature, complete the volume.

While Bibliographic Control of Microforms contains some valuable bibliographic data, nevertheless, the book in no way fulfills the reader’s expectation of a systematic examination of the subject under study.—S. Micha Namensworth, Assistant University Librarian, Collection Development, University of California, Berkeley.

OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST TO ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS


Hegener, Karen C., ed. Annual Guides to Graduate and Undergraduate Study, 1973. New Jersey: Peterson’s Guides, Inc. $75.00 per set. (8-volume set, individual books also available.)

