

to make pilot versions work may have the effect of changing our image of what is feasible and desirable. We must not see ourselves in a lifeboat that is already so overcrowded that accepting more drowning persons endangers the boat and all in it, because we can expand its capacity by expanding our capacity for more imaginative problem-representations and more creative ways of coping.

An appended essay brings us back to reality with some discussion of the economic problems involved in a world brain. How, for example, shall we adequately compensate creators of information? And then there are the much more complex problems of hardware and software design compatibility, the immense costs of data input, and such problems as coding for optimum retrieval of related information. This reviewer, perhaps too cynical, was reminded many times during his reading of the old, old joke about the *ultimate* computer and data base. Having designed and built the hardware, and having patiently fed it every scrap of information known, the information scientists gather round to ask the ultimate machine the ultimate question: "Is there a God?" The machine speaks back in a deep rumbling voice, "Now there is!" WISE may be wise, but I would judge it to be a step nearer to 1984.—*W. David Laird, University Librarian, University of Arizona, Tucson.*

Stecher, Elizabeth. *Catalogue Provision in Libraries of Colleges of Advanced Education*. Melbourne: Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, 1975. 1v. (var. pag.) \$5.00 Australian plus freight. (ISBN 0-909099-00-6) (Available from Publishing Dept., Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, 124 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3000.)

A research project to investigate suitable methods of production of catalogs for colleges of advanced education libraries from computer-based data files was undertaken by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Library. This is the report of the detailed study directed by Elizabeth Stecher. The project appears to have been performed in a rather elaborate way, and the

report is written in a way that makes it basically unreadable.

The findings of the study indicate that computer-output-microform (COM) generated microfilm catalogs have advantages over computer-printed book catalogs. The cost figures presented in this report have no relationship to cost figures available in the U.S. In fact, in Australia, according to this report, more than twenty copies of a microfilm catalog cost more than the same number of book catalogs. This fact seems unusual even for Australian costs.

The superficial consideration of microfiche versus microfilm that this study reports is the only major area of the study that lacks extensive attention. The published literature on the kind of microform used for catalogs is extensive. The bibliography of the current reports cites many of the better-known articles, but the conflict of form has not been pursued here.

This in-depth study and the elaborate manipulation of the data appears to be much more than is needed to arrive at the end result. The specific hypotheses that are presented and the testing and end results are obvious and have been previously studied elsewhere. There is little to be gained by every library doing or redoing other similar studies. This report does not provide any new information.—*Helen R. Citron, Head of Administrative Services, Georgia Tech Library, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta.*

Ellsworth, Diane J., and Stevens, Norman D., eds. *Landmarks of Library Literature, 1876-1976*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1976. 520p. \$17.50. (LC 75-45139) (ISBN 0-8108-0899-4)

There are those among us who have long complained that as a profession we have lost our sense of history; that we dissipate our energies needlessly ricocheting from enthusiasm to enthusiasm, crying "Lo here," and "Lo there," making extravagant claims of salvation in the name of every cockamamie idea that comes to mind. If we can talk louder than anyone else, we can make people listen, and if we are persuasive enough we can get them to follow until they learn, as we all have to learn sooner or later, that if the idea is worth anything, it will be