

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

hard to implement. A little looking, if we would but try it, will show also that if the idea is worth anything, it has been around for a long time. The value of the present volume, and of some of the other writing in this centennial year, is that it might help to thwart that pervasive tendency to assume that everything is new under the sun.

Here is William Frederick Poole's excellent reminder, made in 1893, of the essential nature of library instruction for college students. Here is a discussion of the circulation of tennis racquets from public libraries in 1894. Here is a prediction of a quarter-century ago that interlibrary loan will collapse of its own weight unless a process is developed for reimbursing the lender. Here is E. C. Richardson calling in 1890 for "a central, national, lending library of the least frequently needed books," and here is Harvard's President Eliot in 1902 repeating his earlier suggestion that the library community needed two or three joint storage repositories "for books out of use," and Frederick Crunden advocating business-like practices in libraries in 1887, and Liberty Hyde Bailey pleading for library service to rural populations in 1908. And many more.

As a general matter, this reviewer does not like anthologies, but he feels that the present one is somewhat exceptional in several ways: (1) it does, after all, observe our centennial; (2) the selection is excellent (although every library historian who reads it will doubtless miss at least one old friend); (3) the introductory headnotes are useful; and (4) the topical grouping of the selections is well done.

This collection anthologizes articles only; all but one of the forty selections are from journals. There are seventeen articles from the *Library Journal*, although only five of them appeared in the last seventy years. The *Library Quarterly* is represented by ten selections, of which eight appeared before 1952. Three of the four pieces from *College & Research Libraries* were published in the last fifteen years. *American Libraries* and the *Wilson Library Bulletin* each have two entries, and the balance are from other sources.

It would be a salutary thing if all librarians were to read this book. But I guess we won't all do that, will we?—David Kaser,

Graduate Library School, Indiana University.

Crix, F. C. *Reprographic Management Handbook*. London: Business Books, 1975. 288p. \$23.50. (ISBN 0-220-66258-4)

New, Peter G. *Reprography for Librarians*. London: Clive Bingley; Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books, 1975. 109p. \$7.00. (LC 75-11631) (ISBN 0-208-01373-3)

LaHood, Charles G., and Sullivan, Robert C. *Reprographic Services in Libraries*. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1975. 74p. \$4.50. (LC 75-25585) (ISBN 0-8389-3166-9)

Just a few years ago, the word "reprographic" was not found in most librarians' vocabularies. Thanks to works like Nitecki's *Directory of Library Reprographic Services*, the term is becoming familiar, gradually replacing "photoduplication," "document copying," and "documentary reproduction." It is generally understood to cover same-size and changed-size copying (reduction to micro- or enlargement to "large print" size), as well as duplicating (spirit, mimeograph) and small offset printing. Micrographics is a branch of reprography.

Crix's book emphasizes duplicating and printing. Less comprehensive, but still informative, is his coverage of copying; micrographics is kept to a scant five pages. This is the work of an experienced professional who is thoroughly knowledgeable in all aspects of his field: technology, personnel, management. Although the author's background is British and his book is general rather than library-oriented, it is so practical and well-reasoned that it can help American librarians with many personnel and other administrative problems. Crix's approach is pragmatic, his common sense delightful, his style direct. Managers of (no matter how embryonic) reprographic services, librarians who consider establishing such services, and students interested in duplicating technology can profit from this well-illustrated book.

Peter New counts on a much larger audience, writing for the librarian and library school student with a general interest in this subject, rather than the manager or the specialist. He attempts to cover the whole