in-service training program and that all concerned be aware of it.

The book has value in that one can analyze the methodology of an interview research procedure. The questions used are in an appendix and the results are clearly offered to the reader in the text. Readers can allow themselves to think of other questions that might have been asked. And they can provide themselves the luxury of second-guessing the conclusions. The review of the literature in chapters 1, 2, and 7 highlights the problem of professionalism for librarians. But as a larger historical perspective it leaves much to be desired.

We will continue to wait for the final answer about such professionalism, what it means, how one achieves it, and the means of getting others to accept it. This book makes one small contribution toward that answer. Hopefully, it will encourage others to continue the research so we will no longer have to ask, "What do librarians do when they are doing well as librarians?"—Leslie W. Sheridan, Director of University Libraries, The University of Toledo.


This volume successfully continues a series aimed at presenting a comprehensive overview of contemporary library concerns. It is primarily about library technical assistants—their history, rationale, education, and use—and their relationship to the library profession. To some their existence is a thorny problem, to others a cause to espouse and a way of life. These points of view are reflected in the fifty-one pieces in the book, which include articles and statistical studies. They have been selected mainly from recent periodical literature written by authorities in this area, from library educators and librarians to the practitioners themselves and a student.

The collection touches most of the aspects of subgraduate education in library techniques and the use of such trained non-professionals in diverse library situations. It is hoped that those seeking this information will not be deflected from their aim by the title. This is not a book about library technology. It is a book about nonprofessionals in libraries who have had training in library techniques and their impact.

This does seem an area beset with concerns over terminology, probably because of the very disparity of its parts. In one of the articles, Lester Asheim answers a list of ten, "I don’t like the term ———,” by saying, “Suggestions for ideal terminology are always welcome” (p.60). A better title for this book would be “Reader on the Library Technical Assistant.”—Barbara R. Healy, Management Library, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York.


This volume is a revised and enlarged version of the author’s earlier bibliography.