

comment, but this reviewer found particularly interesting the contribution by Dr. Margareet Wijnstroom, General Secretary of IFLA, on library developments in North West Europe; the survey of public libraries in the Commonwealth Caribbean by Joyce Robinson, Director of the Jamaica Library Service; the clear and incisive analysis of academic library problems in developing areas such as the Caribbean, by Kenneth Ingram, Librarian, University of the West Indies, Jamaica; and the excellent update on library cooperation in the West Indies with its extensive bibliography, by Dr. Alma Jordan, Librarian, University of the West Indies, Trinidad. As is true typically of conference papers, one has a sense of reading a collection, since they are not chapters by a single author. But the variety here imparts a real and attractive sense of looking in at an international conference, where not only the facts but the attitudes differ.

Finally it must be said, the whole event is a credit to Kenneth E. Ingram, then chairman of the program subcommittee, later chairman of the conference, president of the Jamaica Library Association, and editor, along with Mrs. Jefferson, his assistant in Jamaica, of the papers. The outline of topics, the choice of speakers, the synopsis of the discussion periods, and the overall editing of the papers and of the publication itself have put together a happening that anyone would be proud of.—G. A. Harrer, *Director of Libraries, University of Florida*.

Mount, Ellis. *University Science and Engineering Libraries: Their Operation, Collections, and Facilities*. Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science, Number 15. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975. 214p. \$15.00. (LC 74-34562) (ISBN 0-8371-7955-6)

The author, who has been associated with the science and engineering libraries at Columbia University since 1964, covers most major topics of concern to those involved in such libraries. The first half of the book deals with the nature of technical libraries at universities—organizational patterns and location, administration, staffing

and personnel management, collections (including weeding), facilities and equipment, and relationships with other groups (e.g., other university library units; other library systems; and industrial, governmental, and other organizations). He discusses basic principles and practical issues, with pros and cons, and frequently gives examples from a variety of institutions, supported by data and numerous bibliographic citations. The approach is practical, direct, and quite up to date. The style is primarily narrative, rather than categorized or outlined. Cost data are as of 1973 and need to be adjusted to 1976 inflated rates.

There are some topics which are scarcely mentioned. For example, there is little about the selection, acquisition, storage, and servicing of microforms, especially technical reports, although there is a brief discussion of microform readers and printers.

Library personnel, from the subprofessional working in such a library to the university librarian, and even faculty library committee members, would benefit from a reading of this book, through the insights it provides of the complexities involved in the administration and functioning of these units. Library school students expecting to work in such libraries can find out what to expect.

In spite of the wide variety of organizational patterns of practices in such libraries throughout the United States, the author has managed to convey the essence of the common problems and suggests solutions and warns of pitfalls to avoid.

The second half of the book consists primarily of selected examples of basic titles representing various types of sci-tech literature. Each category is preceded by a discussion of its characteristics. All monographic titles are annotated to show scope. The first category is guides to the literature, of which there now are a number of excellent titles in most sci-tech disciplines. Other categories include annual reviews, technical reports, patents, directories, standards, translations, theses, tables, data banks, and audiovisual aids, as well as handbooks, periodicals, abstracting services, etc. The titles show care in selection, and

the category commentaries are relevant and to the point.

Because the selection of titles is very limited, many basic reference tools which sci-tech librarians use constantly are not included. Two titles for conference literature and five for technical reports seem rather skimpy. A much more comprehensive treatment of the literature with extensive lists is Dennis Grogan's *Science and Technology: An Introduction to the Literature* (2d ed., Shoe String Press, 1973).

The author deserves the thanks of university science and engineering librarians for having covered many fine points of the subject. The index could have been expanded somewhat. The print is rather small and margins narrow, making reading for any length of time difficult.—*Johanna E. Tallman, Director of Libraries, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.*

Norton, Margaret Cross. *Norton on Archives: The Writings of Margaret Cross Norton on Archival & Records Management*. Edited with an introduction by Thornton W. Mitchell. Foreword by Ernst Posner. Carbondale and Edwardsville: Southern Illinois Univ. Pr., 1975. 288p. \$10.00 (LC 75-20410) (ISBN 0-8093-0738-3)

Margaret Cross Norton served as Illinois State Archivist from 1922 to 1957. During those thirty-five years she contributed to the formulation of archival procedures, policy, and philosophy at the state as well as national level due to her active participation in many of the professional associations. She is especially known for her position against allowing the historians to preempt the field of archival care and preservation and asserted, rather, that archives management was entitled to full public support and thus complete public-oriented service. However, her writings consisted mainly of journal articles that appeared between 1930 and 1956 in *American Archivist*, *Illinois Libraries*, and a number of lesser-known publications. The purpose of this volume is to bring together those articles into one com-

prehensive work representative of Norton's thought on archives.

The articles have not been reprinted by chronological or subject order. Rather, thirteen chapters were created, each based on at least two or more related articles. The editorial work is outstanding. Despite some repetition (pages 214-15 and 237-38 on micrographics, for example), T. W. Mitchell has organized and made coherent a presentation of some thirty articles written over a twenty-six-year period. This formidable task is successful largely because of his severe criteria for inclusion, format, and style which he imposed on the various articles. Bibliographic notes and index extend the usefulness of the volume.

The contents of this work emphasize "the timelessness of her understanding of the philosophical as well as the technical aspects of the archivist's work." The chapters on the scope and function of archives; the purpose and nature of archives; and the services and resources of archives contain stimulating thought and are as relevant today as when she wrote them—especially in light of the current controversy surrounding the status of presidential tapes. But other chapters which are of a technical or procedural nature, such as photographic and micrographic reproduction of records, records disposal, and the handling and repair of fragile documents, present a treatment that is obviously dated, less useful, and sometimes misleading. The lesson being that there is a limit as to how relevant an editor can make writings that are ten to twenty-five years old.

There is nothing new in this volume for the harried archives manager looking for better or more efficient operating procedures. Standard works by Theodore Schellenberg or the recent issue of *Drexel Library Quarterly* (Jan. 1975) will retain their spaces on the archivist's bookshelves. Yet, there is much food for thought in this volume, and the archivist or records manager who still takes an interest in and has a concern for understanding the nature and use of archives and their value to society will surely benefit from reading the crisp and clear thoughts of Margaret Cross Norton.—*Charles R. McClure, Graduate School of Library Service, Rutgers University.*