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BOOK REVIEWS

Hayes, Robert M., and Becker, Joseph. *Handbook of Data Processing for Libraries*. 2d ed. Sponsored by the Council on Library Resources. A Wiley-Becker & Hayes Series Book. Los Angeles: Melville Publishing Company, 1974. 688p. (LC 74-9690) (ISBN 0-471-36483-5)

This handbook includes twenty chapters, a glossary, and a fairly detailed index. The twenty chapters are organized into four broad sections. The first, "Introduction to Library Data Processing," has four chapters on systems and networks, representative projects, scientific management, and cost accounting. Section two, "Management of Library Data Processing," has four chapters on management planning, methods of system description, system budgeting and evaluation, and system implementation. Section three covers "Data Processing Technology" in five chapters dealing with machine language, data processing, input, output, display, storage, and data communication. The last section, "Library Subsystems," includes administration, ordering, cataloging, serials records, circulation, interlibrary loan, and mechanized information services.

The listing above makes the scope of this work apparent. To bring together in one volume such a large amount of materials in so recent a field is a tremendous achievement. As will be shown, I have faults to find and have detailed these in what I hope is an objective manner. Nevertheless, I do not want these negative comments to overshadow my enormous respect for the arduous task Hayes and Becker set themselves in writing this book. The scope, complexity, and diversity of this task make it inevitable that unevenness would occur and criticisms be made. I, knowing reasonably well the difficulties the authors faced and recognizing the solid achievement made, feel somewhat as if I were attacking an elephant with a popgun. Nevertheless, the attack:

The second edition of the Hayes and Becker *Handbook* raises two questions. Are there enough significant differences be-

tween editions to warrant purchase of the second by those holding the first, and is the second edition a timely and useful volume for those lacking the first? The answer to the first question is "No," and, to the second, a qualified "Yes." The reasons for this assessment are discussed below.

This work presents a serious problem for the reviewer! To what degree should the reviewer be swayed by the authors' statement of the intended audience and purpose of their work? This edition reaffirms the goals of the first: to provide the librarian "a concrete, factual guide" to assist decision making, to provide the student a textbook to give insight into the methodology and interrelationship between data processing and the library, and to give the systems analyst a "state of the art" survey. These goals are only partially fulfilled.

Although the second edition has been rewritten in parts, in general the content does not sufficiently reflect current developments or issues in library data processing. The glossary, for example, does not define terms such as "light pen," "bar-coded label," and "computer-output-microform"; and these developments are briefly treated in the text. The discussions of machine-readable data bases, bibliographic standards, and networks are essentially unchanged between editions.

There are, also, strange gaps in the treatment of libraries as systems. The section on cataloging does not include the problems of authority control for names and subjects. Terms such as "subject heading," "thesaurus," and "content analysis" are not listed in the index. A brief definition of "thesaurus" can be located, through the index, by use of the term, "search." File access methods are not treated comprehensively; the now widely used search code algorithms are not discussed.

What do we make of a state-of-the-art textbook that cites only the 1968 edition of the MARC monograph format? Neither the 1972 edition of this format, the fifth, nor the nine supplementary addenda are mentioned. The work on the MARC serials format is not mentioned in the section on serials cataloging and is but briefly treated as part of the National Serials Data Program; the published version of the MARC

serials format is not cited. None of the MARC formats for nonbook materials, e.g., films, maps, etc., are even mentioned.

The chapters on library data processing include many tables that could mislead the reader. Some tables seem to be quite specific in detailing production rates, costs, salaries, etc. In only a few cases are we told how these data are to be used and how they were derived; in most instances the labor costs have not been updated since the first edition. The impression remains that these tables were derived as a sort of academic exercise and are not based on actual operational library data.

Overall, the treatment of the various aspects of system analysis and library data processing is uneven. What appear to be minor points are often covered in great detail, whereas some major topics are not covered at all. Thus, in a work whose aim is to support decision making and state-of-the-art knowledge, a curious bias toward irrelevant matters and a curious tendency toward the historical obscures the identification of and concentration on significant developments and aspects of library automation. For example, the OCLC system is given a highly summarized treatment, whereas thirty-five detailed pages are devoted to the Association of Research Libraries' SILC (System for Interlibrary Communication) study. Space is given to the invention of the punched card, the history of the role of the Council on Library Resources in library automation, to a conference held at the Folger Library in 1955, to COSATI, ASTIA, etc. More attention is given to the history of the MARC Pilot Project than to what is happening to MARC today. Readers may have difficulty in ascertaining which developments and groups are still functioning, since the demise of a group or the culmination of a project is often not noted.

Viewed in this light, the *Handbook* fails to meet its objectives and is not well suited for its intended audience. However, if the book is reviewed without regard to its authors' objectives, a different assessment can be made. The *Handbook* is a useful compendium covering several important facets of library automation. It is of interest to see what two knowledgeable and perceptive

practitioners believe to be of value and importance. The authors' first-hand experience on such projects as the SILC study, the EDUCOM studies, and the National Commission on Library and Information Science and on state networking provide personal insights and information not found elsewhere. The work is lucidly written and treats an enormous variety of topics; this variety made it difficult for the authors to give even treatment in the first edition, let alone provide uniform updating in the second. If a third edition is prepared, it might be better to divide this work into two parts: a volume dealing with background and history and a volume dealing with systems aspects. (The real merit of the section on data processing technology and the chapters on automation of circulation and information retrieval are obscured in so voluminous a work.)

Regardless of the flaws in this book, the field has been enriched by the efforts Hayes and Becker have made toward an analytical structure of the library automation field. In summary, while this new edition, as did the first, fails in its stated objectives, it seems to this reviewer to meet some quite different objectives very well. In the future it will be regarded as a valuable sourcebook for the history of library automation activities for the period covered. Those seeking a broad, historical introduction to library data processing will find this a useful, and, indeed, a unique resource.—*Barbara Evans Markuson, Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority.*

Bramley, Gerald. *World Trends in Library Education*. Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books & Clive Bingley, 1975. 234p. \$10.00. (LC 74-34355) (ISBN 0-208-01368-7)

Gerald Bramley, British librarian and teacher, author of *A History of Library Education* (1969), in which he traced practices in the United Kingdom, the United States, South Africa, Australia, and India, has written a survey of some current library education trends. In the brief introduction Mr. Bramley indicates that he plans to examine the direction library education is taking today and in the future, concentrating upon Anglo-American library education