

fective cooperative acquisitions program which would insure that one copy of every publication of current or potential scholarly importance would find its way into some German research library and would become available to all users in the Federal Republic through efficient information and inter-library loan services. A classified subject scheme was devised, and certain libraries with staffs capable of selecting and acquiring the materials and administrative officers willing to assume what became national responsibilities were assigned one or more subject categories. They were urged to collect creatively and comprehensively. In return, the GRS provided funds for acquisitions, salaries, and equipment in the participating libraries and served as the central coordinating organization.

This important "Memorandum" analyzes the program's strengths and weaknesses, describes the organizational changes and updating needed to make it more effective, and considers such issues as whether a national lending library on the British model should replace the decentralized system and whether additional central subject libraries should be created. Among the weaknesses are the problems of adequately defining responsibilities when traditional subject divisions are being eroded by new fields, such as environmental studies; the varying intensities of collection development among the participating libraries (evidently some were not being sufficiently comprehensive in their collecting); and a cumbersome inter-library loan system. Judged against these deficiencies were the development and access for scholars of subject specialist librarians, the future of collections which have been developed through this program, and the inability to show that within the German context centralization would be more effective. On balance the GRS opted to continue the present program but recommended many changes to make it more responsive to current needs, among them provision of additional funds for certain technical services, for travel for specialist librarians, and for other costs unique to the subjects being covered. Discussions of the need for a central lending library are also to continue.

Several appendixes, including the list of

subjects and the libraries responsible for them, conclude the volume. A brief English-language summary of main points accompanies the volume, but, for thorough understanding of the system and its working, one must have access to the German text.

This description of a fascinating plan to develop a national research collection is of intrinsic interest but also implicitly raises questions related to the general merit of a decentralized versus a centralized approach to national resource development. Contrast German federal spending, for example, with the aborted Farmington Plan, the approximate American equivalent of the GRS scheme, which relied solely on local means to satisfy what were defined as national needs. Although even generous support has not solved all problems, one does wonder, amid the general discussion of a national information system for the United States and the financial potential of revenue sharing, whether the GRS plan is not suggestive of a means to help maintain the unique collections in some research libraries foundering amid rising costs and diminished local financing.—*Erwin K. Welsch, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin—Madison.*

Veit, Fritz. *The Community College Library*. Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science, Number 14. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975. 221p. \$13.95. (LC 72-843) (ISBN 0-8371-6412-5)

The literature of the community college library has been enriched by Dr. Veit's masterful presentation in this state-of-the-art volume. It is comprehensive, well documented, and readable. As the author indicates, it is intended not only for students in the field, but also for community college library staffs and the general reader. An index facilitates the location of references to specific aspects of library operation.

Dr. Veit defines his terms explaining that "community college" refers to all public postsecondary two-year institutions and that "library" includes both the traditional library and the learning resource center. The author points out that the community college library is similar in many respects to

other college libraries. However, the community college library is different in that it must support the goals and programs of the unique institution of which it is a part.

A discussion of the historical development of community colleges in the United States precedes chapters on personnel; administrative organization; technical services; learning materials and equipment; microforms; user services; cooperation and extension of service; standards and guidelines; planning the building; and "Movements and Developments with Strong Impact." Details abound, including everything from comments on on-approval order plans to a discussion of examples of television operations.

Statistical tables, library floor plans, and organization charts illustrate the text. Bibliographies are included at the end of each chapter. Frequent references to the practices in community college libraries across the country are interspersed in the text. The chapter on standards and guidelines deals specifically with efforts of the Association of College and Research Libraries to formulate national standards for community college libraries, and there is frequent reference to the 1972 *Guidelines* throughout the text. Reference is also made to state standards such as those in Washington, California, and Illinois.

Although the text is factual for the most part, Dr. Veit interjects his own opinions or recommendations from time to time. In the chapter on technical services, the following statement appears (p.93): "It is more difficult to maintain a multi-media catalog than separate catalogs for book and non-book media." Similarly, in the chapter on learning materials and equipment, the following is stated (p.103): "A community college should very closely consider the implications of becoming a government publications depository, especially a federal depository."

Some information in the text is unavoidably dated. It is hoped that the reader will consult library literature to learn recent developments in the operation of the Ohio College Library Center, for example, or to secure current evaluations of dial-access systems.

Dr. Veit has painstakingly assembled a

wealth of information which should admirably serve the needs of the uninitiated.—*Alice B. Griffith, Library Director, Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica, New York.*

Ingram, K. E., and Jefferson, Albertina A., eds. *Libraries and the Challenge of Change*. Papers of the International Library Conference held in Kingston, Jamaica, 24-29 April 1972. Published for the Jamaica Library Association and the Jamaica Library Service. London: Mansell, 1975. 265p. \$20.00. (ISBN 0-7201-0523-4) Distributed in North America by International Scholarly Book Services, Inc., P.O. Box 4347, Portland, OR 97208.

I should admit to begin with that the papers of a conference are not my favorite literature, but since I was prevented by circumstances from attending this conference and had heard good things about it, I agreed to review the publication. I'm glad I did.

Held under the sponsorship of the Jamaica Library Association, with the government of Jamaica and the Jamaica Library Service as cosponsors, the conference was designed to "focus the attention of the public, of government and of other agencies upon the role and value of libraries and upon the nature of the profession of librarianship . . ." with the hope of "winning for them a greater measure of moral and financial support in these tasks"—a noble purpose for the Caribbean area where such support is certainly needed. Each of the ten sessions was devoted to a different topic: public, national, university, and special libraries; libraries for youth; library education; technology; UNESCO; cooperation; national plans; and professional associations. Typically, an internationally recognized representative of the specialty was invited to speak on the topic in general, followed by a Jamaican representative who discussed the local and/or Caribbean situation. The discussion which ensued in each session was synopsisized by the editors from tape recordings.

Without exception, the papers are well constructed and informative. It may, therefore, be misleading to single out any for