

fits) to examine the personnel, salary, and staff situations in their libraries and to define possible actions for amelioration of existing inequalities.

Both of these volumes should be purchased for the professional collections of all libraries. They present a challenge to our profession to assume leadership with the other ranking female professions of education and nursing in the nationwide battle to end discrimination.—*Sherrie S. Bergman, College Librarian, Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts.*

Christian, Roger W. *The Electronic Library: Bibliographic Data Bases 1975-76*. White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, Inc., 1975. 118p. \$24.50 (copyrighted pub.; reprod. prohibited); \$60.00 (single copy plus license to reproduce). (LC 75-7724) (ISBN 0-914236-02-4)

*Library Networks '74-'75*. General editor: Seth Goldstein. Report editor: Martin R. Miller. White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, Inc., 1974. 110p. \$24.50 (copyrighted pub.; reprod. prohibited); \$60.00 (single copy plus license to reproduce). (LC 74-82906) (ISBN 0-914236-01-6)

The impact of on-line retrieval systems permitting interactive communication between the computer and the user may well be reflected in the recent upsurge in the use of machine-readable data bases and may result in an even greater proliferation of library networks in the future. However, even with the off-line capability, the database industry and library networks have been growing so rapidly since 1970 that it has been a problem to keep up with developments in both areas. Both of the reports here reviewed fall short of the goal when they attempt to project the state of the art in the growth of bibliographic data bases through 1976 and in the development of library networks through 1975.

For the price of these two publications, and even in spite of the price of these publications, they can in no way compare with the excellent chapters on machine-readable data bases by Gechman (*Annual Review of Information Science and Technology [ARIST]*, 1972) and Williams (*ARIST*,

1974) or on library networks by Miller and Tighe (*ARIST*, 1975). Of the two works issued by Knowledge Industry Publications, however, my reaction to *The Electronic Library*, by Roger W. Christian, was far more positive than to *Library Networks*, with Seth Goldstein as its general editor. The latter would profit immeasurably by being returned to the editing board. In fairness to both authors, however, I should indicate that neither attempts to be comprehensive, but each tries to be selective in his respective presentation. It is to Christian's credit that he does not attempt an in-depth analysis of the data-base industry, but focuses instead on the structure of the industry. He presents a "brief sampling of the wares and modus operandi of representative data base publishers, indicating not only their scope and variations, but their similarities."

Christian discusses three aspects of the industry: the role of the publisher or producer of machine-readable data bases; the role of the distributors or vendors who provide access to published data bases, including the purveyors of the communication facilities that link on-line data-base vendors to their subscribers; and, finally, the role of the users (libraries, research and development, and the general public). With a series of effective brush strokes he sketches the contributions of such major nonprofit and commercial publishers as the National Technical Information Service, the American Chemical Society, the United Engineering Center, INSPEC, and the Institute of Scientific Information. He discusses the marketing techniques and services of the major vendors such as Systems Development Corporation and Lockheed, as well as provides a brief insight into the operations of the smaller vendors or the third-tier retailers. Christian points out that the structure of the industry is confusing, and that a chaotic competition appears to exist between private enterprise, the federal government, and government-subsidized services.

In his final chapters, Christian reviews the effect of the industry on libraries and those problems confronting the user relative to cost of the service, charging of fees for information, the redundant coverage of the literature, and the problem of training the

users versus providing an intermediary. Although the publication is worth reading, it is quite probable that its price and scope may limit distribution.

My initial reaction to Goldstein's work was negative. His work is poorly composed, is often grammatically incorrect and, most jarring of all, frequently contains factual inaccuracies. With all due respect, OCLC was not the first of the computerized cataloging networks, although no one would argue that it is one of the more extensive; nor did FAUL spend \$13.2 million dollars on its operations in 1974, as one might infer from the statement presented by Goldstein. Furthermore, one seeking to find a definition of the term *network* should not attempt to locate it here. His definition, "Library networks . . . are any coalition formed by a group of similar or dissimilar libraries to share resources and centralized processing with one another," lends itself to systems, consortia, or cooperatives as well as to networks.

On the positive side, Goldstein does attempt to restrict his study to a brief overview of computerized cataloging networks. Although predominantly concerned with an analysis of OCLC, the author does discuss regional developments, such as NELINET, BALLOTS, and PALINET, and very briefly touches upon the development in SUNY, FAUL, and CUNY. He also provides a selected directory of eighteen computerized cataloging networks, for which he includes information on location, membership, administration, equipment, status, and funding.

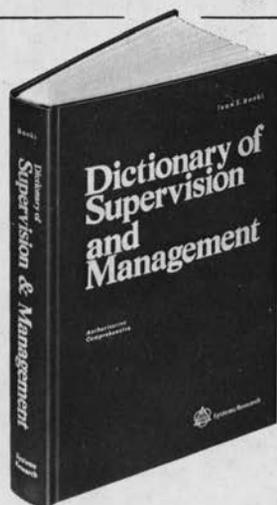
The audience for whom these publications are intended is not quite clear. Neither publication is specialized enough for the information scientist; both are of limited interest to the general public. The price of both may certainly preclude purchase. However, academic and research libraries or library schools with comprehensive collections might consider allocating funds for Christian's book.—*Sylvia G. Faibisoff, Graduate School of Library Science, University of Illinois, Urbana.*

Berninghausen, David K. *The Flight from Reason: Essays on Intellectual Freedom in the Academy, the Press, and the Li-*

*brary.* Chicago: American Library Assn., 1975. 175p. \$7.50. (LC 74-23236) (ISBN 0-8389-0192-1)

'Tis a pity that America's state of society requires as distinguished a librarian as Mr. Berninghausen to divert his energies from teaching librarianship to apprentice librarians to explaining to them and, in this book, to a journeyman audience as well, the necessity of defending the ideas of John Stuart Mill (now 116 years old). But such is our state, and his observations are not amiss.

The reviewer of any book on this subject faces a task which is vaguely distasteful. He regrets, first of all, that the subject must be written about. Second, he doubts that the book will either reach or convert the hearth. Third, he cannot escape the feeling that a dead horse is being flogged. Finally, he probably finds himself in such general agreement with the author that he is reduced to enumerating the contents or to echoing, in truncated form, the major points. So reduced, let me say that seven of the eight essays appear to be here published for the first time; the eighth is a re-



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