

both its compliment and its complement. Besides the scholarly apparatus of footnotes, illustration notes, select bibliography, and references, there is a "chronological list of Caxton's editions . . . in accordance with the evidence and arguments brought forward in this book."

We have the organizers of the Caxton Quincentenary to thank for focusing scholarly attention on Caxton and for stimulating such a lively and scholarly interchange on "one of the most famous yet least known of great Englishmen."—*John V. Richardson, Jr., Graduate Library School, Indiana University.*

Welch, Theodore F. *Toshokan: Libraries in Japanese Society.* London: Clive Bingley; Chicago: American Library Assn., 1976. 306p. \$15.00. ISBN 0-85157-220-0 Bingley; 0-8389-0172-7 ALA.

Since the end of World War II there has been a steady growth of interest in Japan, and the Western scholars have written on

virtually every aspect of the Japanese society. Yet until now, no one has attempted to take a comprehensive look at the Japanese libraries. *Toshokan* by Theodore F. Welch is an excellent and well-researched compendium of the library world in Japan.

For every kind of library, the author traces its history and legal background and describes the present activities, providing an impressive array of statistics and other documentations. In twelve chapters he manages to provide rather penetrating descriptions of various libraries and the status of their librarians. The modern library concepts were transplanted in Japan by the Americans who brought many changes to Japan during the postwar occupation. In the past thirty years many of the Western ideas imposed on Japan have taken deep roots in the cultural milieu of the Japanese people, but the library has not found a significant place in the mainstream of Japanese life.

What emerges from Welch's descriptions

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is an image that this sophisticated society with a highly educated and literate population has not developed an appreciation for the library and librarians. For most of their information needs, the people bypass the librarians and even the library itself. Only in the science-technology fields, some systematic services have been developed successfully. The overall quality of his information is excellent if one keeps in mind the fact that six to ten years have elapsed since he has gathered them, and some things have changed for the better. There are, however, a few questionable matters serious enough to be mentioned.

First, Welch states that the University of Tokyo has revived its library science program and that it already has awarded doctoral degrees in librarianship. To date, this university has not produced any graduates with degrees in librarianship, not even with a B.A. In the National University system, there is no program which offers a degree in librarianship. The Toshokan Tandai (the National Junior College of Library Science which offers two-year certificates) will be graded up to a four-year college in a few years when the college moves to a new site outside of Tokyo. The only Ph.D. program in library science in Japan began in 1975 at the Library School of Keio University, and none of its four candidates has received the degree as of April 1977, its second anniversary.

Again, Welch mentions that there are more than 10,000 special clerks serving as school librarians and that they are paid a "mere 14 dollars a month." According to the Japanese Bureau of Statistics, the income of an average urban salaried family has tripled during the ten-year period from 1965-1975. It gives the monthly income of Y236,197 (about \$840) for 1975. Even part-time student workers make \$1.50 to \$1.70 an hour in most places, including libraries. To suggest that any regular employee in Japanese libraries today earns a monthly salary of \$14 is preposterous.

Those who are interested in comparative librarianship may find this book very stimulating, and others will find it to be a valuable handbook on Japanese libraries.—*Eugene Carvalho, Librarian, East Asian Library, Kansas University Libraries, Lawrence.*

Kunz, Werner; Rittel, Horst W. J.; and Schwuchow, Werner. *Methods of Analysis and Evaluation of Information Needs: A Critical Review*. München: Verlag Dokumentation, 1977. 84p. \$12.00. ISBN 3-7940-3450-3. (Available from Unipub, Box 433, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10016.)

This work is a synopsis of a study performed under the auspices of the Fédération Internationale de Documentation entitled *Methods of Analysis and Evaluation of Information Needs to be Satisfied by National Documentation, Library and Archive Infrastructures*. Although the frame of reference throughout the work is the design of national and international information systems, the discussion is equally relevant to smaller constructs, such as local or regional networks or even individual libraries/information centers.

The authors' approach is conditioned by the basic assumption that "the effectiveness of such facilities depends upon the extent to which their system characteristics correspond with the situation of the user and on how much the potential user of these facilities is willing and able to make use of these services." Although librarianship has, in recent years, tended to concentrate on its service aspects rather than its archival functions, the equation of user satisfaction—especially the satisfaction of the unsophisticated user—with library success by no means commands the universal agreement assumed here.

Nonetheless, users are obviously central to any information system so it is incumbent upon the designers and operators of such systems to know as much as possible about those they attempt to serve. Kunz and his colleagues identify, discuss, and analyze the traditional methodologies employed in user studies and conclude that for the most part they have "led only to an accumulation of previously known data and to a confirmation of already known relationships, and have not generated much new knowledge." The need for more and better research about users and the phenomenon of use is clear, and the relatively untried but promising research strategies suggested by the authors to expand our knowledge of this area are worthy of further development.