Errors not thus caught are trusted to be found by “relying on library users to tell them later if the cataloguing content is faulty.”

The second conference, at which time a British “MARC Users’ Group” was officially established, concerned itself—in the context of MARC use—with the relationship of the using libraries to book dealers, to the national library, and to future developments of automation. The seven papers—from a book dealer, the British Library, public libraries, a college library, and the Birmingham cooperative—are of interest insofar as they document current automation uses and plans in Great Britain. Whereas one public library (ca. 13,000 orders per year) found that only an expensive on-line CRT configuration could better its manual system, the book dealer enthusiastically reported highly satisfactory flexibility with a complete on-line random access facility which has allowed him to realize “multiple output from single input.”

The magnitude of the users of the British Library’s BRIMARC tape service (twenty-six subscribers of which ten are outside the United Kingdom) is dwarfed by the number using LC’s program, yet the library has some grand intentions (e.g., convert all BNB (1950 on) to MARC; begin CIP in 1976). The college library described receiving shelf-ready books while using MARC for the cataloging copy but complained of the quality of LC’s use of DC 18, of the invariable use of record type “am” (printed monograph) for all forms of material, and of confusion and error in usage and appearance of the ISBN.

The approaches to technical services automation may be new, although the problems discussed are not; however, these reports only underline the urgency for implementation of international standards.—Robert H. Breyfogle, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, California.


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The tone of the Proceedings of this first CLENE Assembly is sharp and clean: If libraries are to survive as agencies of information amid a jungle of other fiercely competing institutions clawing to usurp their place, then librarians need to reassess both the organizational goals of their libraries and their own career goals and shift quickly into high gear, which would direct them away from the concept that the one-year MLS degree is educationally sufficient for survival to the concept that their education must be lifelong.

The first assembly of the Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange was held in Chicago little more than a year ago (January 23–24, 1976). Its purpose was to mark an occasion for an "idea whose time has come" in dynamic fashion. Thus the proverbial wisdom that was certain to come out of that conference, together with a recognition of the hard work that still lay ahead, with all of the problems and headaches inherent in a work of such magnitude, could not easily be forgotten or ignored.

The Proceedings reflect the excitement of the assembly. They are roughly divided into four major content areas: (1) a keynote address by Richard Dougherty and Janice Powell in which the authors pose the question: "Is librarianship one of the endangered professions?" and in which they look to both library administration and staff to orchestrate and correlate the goals of the individual with and to the goals of the library; (2) self-assessment presentations in which continuing education biggies, such as James Liesener, Ruth Patrick, Mary Ellen Michael, Duane Webster, and Grover Andrews, present various models for continuing education programs, career planning, and self-development strategies, complete with the suggestion that the library's role in the educational program of the institution and the community might well become the point of focus for a non-traditional self-study; (3) a "Model for Assessing Continuing Education Needs of a Profession," by Malcolm Knowles, in which the author views the impending obsolescence of man as the next century's greatest threat to civilization; and (4) summaries of small discussion groups that capture the essence of all of the topics included above, in addition to such pragmatic concerns as developing the criteria for evaluating continuing education programs and financing CLENE.

The companion volume, Continuing Education Opportunities for Library, Information, and Media Personnel, which covers the year January 1, 1976–December 31, 1976, includes 178 programs offered by fifty-one institutions which would certainly have facilitated the planning of an institution's or individual's self-development programs throughout the year. It is described as a "first listing"; this reviewer for one would enthusiastically welcome this source as an aid and a boon for all those who are committed to taking the sure road for professional self-survival.—Mary B. Cassata, Department of Communication, State University of New York at Buffalo.

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