that: “a larger percentage of law library materials are noncirculating or circulate only on a short term basis than is the case with materials in other kinds of libraries” (p.173). This indicates the possibility of some variation in circulation policies. Since, throughout the book, emphasis is placed on the dependency of the legal profession on law books, more attention should have been given to this element of service.

In the discussion of services offered by law school libraries, it is asserted that the number of staff members correlates to the range of services provided; Table III is cited. There is no Table III, per se, but apparently by using the “eyeball” method of comparing Tables IIIa, IIIc, and IIIe a correlation was determined. Since these, and some other tables, display only columns of “Y” and “N,” representing the actual yes and no responses to each question by each library, any attempt to study the tables produces a blur of Ys and Ns. A reader must count and produce a total for each horizontal and vertical row.

The twenty-four recommendations based on the data obtained should present some guidelines to Canadian law librarians in structuring priorities, particularly the recommendation that CALL develop standards for Canadian law libraries. The recommendation of a national network of law libraries, rather than a centralized national network, is also represented by discussion of systems in specific environments, such as public and special libraries; the variety and range could, perhaps, have been justifiably sacrificed in order to focus more clearly on what is or could be happening in reference departments.

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The Use of Computers in Literature Searching and Related Reference Activities in Libraries attempts to “cover a wide range of applications of machine-readable data bases in support of the reference activities of libraries.” The eleven papers included, indeed, deal with a wide range of applications, with the degree to which they are directly related to actual reference activities varying considerably. If the emphasis was intended to be on variety of applications, the criterion has been met by several of the papers, which represent viewpoints from not only academic, special, and public librarians but also data base processors, vendors, and other intermediaries. Variety is also represented by discussion of numerous steps in the process of getting data from the producer to the end user. However, it seems as though some of the variety and range could, perhaps, have been justifiably sacrificed in order to focus more clearly on what is or could be happening in reference departments.

Individually, the majority of the papers are quite worthwhile reading. The first, on evaluating data bases, is both a good introduction and a review of a topic which merits considerable attention. The remaining articles generally fall into three categories: views from a user’s standpoint; descriptions of systems in specific environments, such as public and special libraries; and views from regional and national levels. Not fitting into any of these three categories, but certainly relevant to the future of computers as related to reference work.
is the paper on computer-aided instruction. The final contribution, by the editor, F. Wilfrid Lancaster, to a degree corrects a fault of the rest of the collection. Whereas most of the other papers give interesting conclusions without discussion of the pros and cons of the issues involved, Lancaster brings out some of the points which should be debated if computerized library reference services are to be expected to move from the realm of "acceptable," which admittedly has only recently been reached, to a level of excellence.

In spite of the rapidity of the development of the field of on-line systems, with which most of the papers primarily deal, and the fact that the meeting at which they were presented took place over a year ago, the papers included in Lancaster's book are not yet dated, and much of the information contained in them will be relevant and useful for some time to come.

David M. Wax, who contributed one of the papers in Lancaster's collection, has recently produced a book entitled, A Handbook for the Introduction of On-Line Bibliographic Search Services into Academic Libraries. Based on the experiences of the Northeast Academic Science Information Center (NASIC) over the past three years, this handbook is intended for "library administrators who are planning to initiate the provision of commercially available on-line interactive search services." Topics covered in the brief but concentrated text include discussions of the staffing, training, organization, costs, and logistics of providing such services. Any library which is either planning or presently involved in on-line search services would be wise to pay close attention to this small but significant book. Both the Lancaster collection, from more of a theoretical viewpoint, and the Wax book, from a very practical perspective, are contributions to their field.—Randolph E. Hock, University of Pennsylvania Libraries, Philadelphia.


Murray George Ross, President Emeritus of Canada's York University, who holds degrees from two universities in Canada (Acadia and Toronto) and two universities in the U.S. (Chicago and Columbia), has written an excellent study of the university in three English-speaking countries—England, Canada, and the United States. In his preface Ross says, "This is a book for those who have a general interest in the growth and development of the university, the problems and issues it faces, the future it confronts." And so it is. But it is much more—it is a book that both recalls and interprets events that have profoundly affected universities in the past and will continue to affect them in the future. It is a book that emphasizes certain basic issues in higher education and provides the historical context needed to evaluate these issues and to assess their meaning and importance.

As Ross sees it, the principal issues facing the university are four: goals, governance, academic freedom, and the state. For each of these he provides a summary of key events and a careful review of the pertinent literature. Such an approach has its dangers of necessary but tiresome detail, but the pace and vitality of Ross's writing and his graceful style circumvent all hazards. Perhaps Ross succeeds because he recognizes an element of narcissism in academic people and skillfully exploits the tendency of the university to take great interest in itself. This is not to imply that the book is so specialized as to be of interest only to those in academic life. On the contrary the book will have broad appeal not only because it is well written, but because it is highly informative.

Ross treats thoroughly the great changes that are reshaping the universities, and he does so by extensive quotation from many of the active participants in the academic drama as well as many of its most astute observers. Moreover, the book is marked by great freshness and contemporaneity. Although it begins with a whole section devoted to the origin and evolution of the university and ends with a chapter on the future, in between it is laced with references so current as to suggest something one might have read in last week's issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education.

The author claims to have arranged the book for reference purposes, and indeed the