

tory course in library science, this book well fulfills its purpose. The various chapters cover: library history through the centuries; the place of the library as a social and cultural force and as a responsible communication network in society; the importance of reading and of "knowing men and books"; librarianship in a new role in the field of information science and the study of information processing devices and techniques such as computers and network systems; the "structure, organization and record," of the library and information science profession; the educational and research requirements.

Two chapters in the book were written by other people: chapter 4, "*Deus ex machina*," by La Vahn Overmyer, a faculty member of the Case Western Reserve Library School, and chapter 8, "Library and Information Services," by Margaret Anderson of the University of Toronto Library School faculty.

This book provides an interesting and readable introduction to the field of librarianship and information science. Jesse Shera is a literary man, a scholar, and a humanist. He writes well, with sophistication, and with a sense of humor. He cites authorities, and he expresses his own personal opinion and personal philosophy about the field of librarianship. He speaks for a balance between technology and scholarship and testifies to the breadth and depth and richness of the library profession. In the prologue of his book, Shera says, "The aim of this book, then, is not to introduce, much less to formulate, a philosophy of librarianship, or even to present a 'state of the art' summary, but rather to provide some insight into what librarianship is and the opportunities it offers to one who might choose it as a career."

In the opinion of this reviewer, Dr. Shera achieves his goal and much more. His book is interesting, readable, entertaining, and a contribution to librarianship.—*Martha Boaz, Dean, School of Library Science, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.*

Gates, Jean Key. *Introduction to Librarianship*. 2d ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1976. 288p. \$9.95. LC 75-42316. ISBN 0-07-022977-5.

The first edition of this book proved to

be a valuable introduction and guide to the basic elements of librarianship. The second edition continues the good work and is welcomed as an important title in the McGraw-Hill Series in Library Education. The book has three major divisions: Part One, The Story of Libraries; Part Two, Librarianship as a Profession; and Part Three, Kinds of Libraries and Library Service. The two appendixes include Guides for Professional Performance and a Bibliography.

Jean Gates, in the prologue, states that the book is about "libraries, librarians, and librarianship. It offers indications and suggestions about what they have been, what they are now, what they should be, and what they may become." The author says that the book is "introductory" in nature and proposes to *introduce* the student to the history of libraries and librarianship, to provide a basis for the understanding of library objectives and services, and to instill an appreciation of librarianship as a profession. Included also is information about the various kinds of libraries, the types of library services, information about important library leaders, about professional organizations, about library education, and about current problems, issues, and trends.

For those persons who wish to pursue given topics to greater lengths there are excellent footnotes and bibliographical citations. The material is presented directly and clearly, and the book is an excellent text for an introductory foundation course in library science. It can also serve as a supplement to many other courses in the curriculum and should be required reading of every library school student.—*Martha Boaz, Dean, School of Library Science, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.*

Rayward, W. Boyd. *The Universe of Information: The Work of Paul Otlet for Documentation and International Organisation*. (FID 520) Moscow: Published for International Federation for Documentation (FID) by All-Union Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (VINITI), 1975. 389p. 40 Dutch guilders. (Available from International Federation for Documentation, 7 Hofweg, The Hague, Netherlands.)

This is perhaps the most depressing book that I have ever read—or at least in a class