the ERIC data base: ED 142 185.)

The subject of this publication is accurately stated by its title. Its value is that no such body of guidelines for audits of university libraries has previously appeared. University library administrators and university auditors are the logical and intended audience.

The initial motivation leading to this study was the need to develop a systematic framework for auditing the Washington University Libraries. With the aid of a Council on Library Resources grant and resultant input from other university librarians and auditors, the authors were then able to broaden their studies beyond their local needs. The result is a set of general procedures that should be applicable, with modification for local convenience and practice, to all university libraries.

The heart and bulk (seventy-one pages) of the report is a questionnaire for the evaluation of internal accounting control of a university library. It is in essence a systematic way of calling attention to a priority list of items on which university library auditing should focus. The chief function of the remaining sections of the report is to put this questionnaire into proper perspective by summarizing the work of an auditor and his or her proper relationship with university library management. The value of flow charting, sampling, and use of the computer for auditing is made clear.

Library systems analysis has to date been concerned primarily with operational efficiency. However, fiscal integrity would seem an equally important aspect of such analysis. The authors deserve praise for focusing the attention of librarians on this relatively neglected area and for making a practical contribution to it. — Fred J. Reinritz, Southern Connecticut State College, New Haven.

This reference work provides detailed descriptions of a total of 109 different bibliographic data bases. The descriptions are arranged alphabetically, generally by the name of the data base producer.

Each description begins with the producer’s name, address, and telephone number and then subdivides the available information by the following headings: (1) subject coverage, (2) general description, (3) input, (4) computer-based services, (5) computer hardware of the producer, (6) publications, (7) microform services, (8) other services, and (9) availability of services from processor (i.e., availability of on-line services from major processors only).

The descriptions range from one to six pages but generally occupy two pages. Indexes are provided by “mnemonic acronym,” data base name or acronym, and subject. The “mnemonic acronym” is a standard identification assigned to the data base by the editors and used throughout the indexes as a locator. For example, Chemical Abstracts is tagged as AMERIC CHEM SOC. The subject index, under the appropriate headings, refers the reader to the mnemonic acronym, and the reader is expected to follow the mnemonic trail back to the right entry, consulting the mnemonic acronym index if necessary.

The work is deliberately unpaginated and the entries unnumbered in order to facilitate insertion of supplementary pages. The editors state they intend to keep the work up to date and issue amended and new entries for insertion, but there is no information provided on the exact mechanism to be followed. The original ambition to make all the information machine-readable and to have it serve as the basis for a computerized referral center at the university was apparently thwarted by economic conditions.

The two-page introduction attempts to be a primer on bibliographic data bases and their searching and goes to some care to define and distinguish terms such as “producer,” “processor,” “retrospective,” “current awareness,” “selective dissemination,” “batch,” “on-line,” etc. It characterizes data bases as being of four key types: discipline-oriented, mission-oriented, problem-oriented, multidisciplinary.

Neal-Schuman and ABC-Clio together provide "cordon bleu" reference titles.

Guide to Humanities Resources in the Southwest

Southwestern Library Association
The first single guide to a regional storehouse of rich humanities treasures. Folklore, history, and natural resources are a few of the areas documented. More than 400 collections in Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas are described.
A living resource of over 300 humanities scholars, developed through the National Endowment for the Humanities, and available as representatives for consultation in humanities planning programs is included.

Directory of Art Libraries and Visual Resource Collections in North America
Compiled by ARLIS/NA
A comprehensive reference source for librarians, curators, and scholars in the fine arts. Describes holdings and services of over 1,500 U.S. and Canadian art libraries. Provides an inventory of art slides, photographs, and media resources from other institutions.

The information on each data base appears to have been gathered from the literature and responses provided by the producers. They are generally thorough and accurate but do not appear to have been cycled back through the producers for editing. The result is occasional inaccuracies due to misinterpretation or faulty synthesis of the complex information received. Price information in particular should be checked by any user before being accepted.

Lockheed and System Development Corporation (SDC) appear as the major organizations providing on-line access to the data bases listed. However, a total of eighteen such on-line "processors" are cited, e.g., European Space Agency, National Library of Medicine, Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden), United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, National Research Council of Canada. The entries for Lockheed, SDC, and the other processors list the data bases each makes available. Apparently the data for this work were gathered before Bibliographic Retrieval Services, Inc. (BRS), entered the field.

The descriptions contain a great deal of information and are notably more lengthy than those of many other reference works covering the same ground. Nevertheless, there are several criticisms that can be levied. Publications that are listed appear generally by title only, with no other bibliographic data. The user is not told where to obtain them and must assume that they can all be obtained from the data base producer. This is not the case in several instances, e.g., Resources in Education subscriptions are handled by the U.S. Government Printing Office, not by the tape supplier.

This is a useful reference work and has been conscientiously put together. It is particularly valuable for the inclusion of European data bases not commonly known in the United States, e.g., Zoological Record, London Information Service (AC-COMPLIS), Institute for Research in Fruit and Citrus Production (Paris), Norwegian Centre for Informatics. Like all such reference tools, however, it provides a mere profile. Serious use of any one of the data bases requires going to the original brochures and user guides upon which the
profiles have been based.—Wesley T. Brandhorst, Director, ERIC Processing and Reference Facility, Bethesda, Maryland.


The literature of comparative and international librarianship is beginning to bulge, and this work is another addition to the field. It is a collection of essays written by individuals whose names are well known in comparative and international librarianship. Harvey’s introduction presents the framework and gives the parameters of the contributions. The purposes, as stated by the editor, are legitimate ones: “to describe and assess significant and recent progress in comparative and international library science.” In general, the essays are well written, ranging from original and excellent to a rehashing of work done in other sources.

Part I, “Definitions and Research,” is led by J. Periam Danton’s pithy essay on the inadequacies of definitions of comparative and international library science. His critique begins with work done since 1972, since there have been several competently done prior to that date by Simsova, Harvey, and Danton. Including D. J. Foskett’s analysis of comparative studies in other fields is an excellent idea and helps to draw parallels between theoretical problems in comparative studies in such fields as education, history, and linguistics. Frank L. Schiek’s years of experience with library statistics makes his brief paper on problems in comparative library science a solid contribution.

Part II is a miscellaneous section concerned with recent progress in international and comparative librarianship. The thirteen papers cover a wide range of subjects: “International Organizations,” “National Organizations,” “National Library Services,” “Public Libraries,” “Children’s Library Science,” “The Changing Role of Audio-Visual Media,” “Comparative and International Bibliography,” “Multi-Culturalism, Libraries, and International Terminology,” and “Art Library Science.” The Kaser essay on nine international organizations is analytical and gives an interesting approach to the role of organizations in international library science. Horrocks’ paper is limited to national organizations in Canada, Britain, and the United States. Aman’s treatment of the current status of world bibliography is scholarly and includes Third World nations but ignores, as an example, the regional bibliography of Oceania. The independent nations of Papua New Guinea and Fiji have national bibliographies.

Other noteworthy essays are on comparative and international library studies in library education, international children’s literature, and an international look at the changing role of multimedia in education.

This collection of essays leaves one hopeful that comparative and international library science is building a body of knowledge, despite the growing pains. The work should be of general interest to librarians, and most certainly to the growing band of internationalists in the field.—Miles M. Jackson, Professor, Graduate School of Library Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu.


The 1,475 entries composing this systematic bibliography appear under three types of headings: (1) “international,” for references to developing countries in general, to more than one continent, or to international and comparative librarianship in relation to the Third World; (2) twelve categories for regions (e.g., “Asia, South,” “British Commonwealth,” “Middle East”); and (3) sixty-nine individual countries. For the compilers, the newly developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America constitute the Third World; thus excluded are European nations, U.S., Canada, USSR, Australia, New Zealand, China, and Japan. Even so, not all countries find a place here—among them Cambodia, Uruguay, and several in Central America—presumably because the authors encoun-