

libraries have utilized archive tapes from OCLC to form the foundation of data bases which they manipulate into printed or COM catalogs.

Hewitt reports on a survey he conducted to measure the use of OCLC in the forty-seven charter member libraries. Since the data were collected in 1974, it would seem to make the report out of date. However, as Hewitt points out, "a lag has developed between network technology and the capabilities of libraries to effectively exploit the possibilities offered by that technology." Therefore, the timeliness of the report is acceptable to libraries considering the implementation of a link with OCLC.

While this report is not crucial reading for a library interested in linking up with OCLC, it is useful. For someone very much concerned with the long-range impact of OCLC on operations, it is nearly the only place to go; it serves as a benchmark. In addition, it makes up for a lack to some extent in the Butler report regarding the considerations involved with maintaining a data base once the conversion is completed. There are many changes in operating procedures that accrue from the conversion from a manual to an automated data base. A feeling for the scope and direction of these changes can be gained from Hewitt's analysis.

For someone beginning the process of converting from a manual to an automated data base, the Butler report is a valuable tool and the Hewitt report useful. Neither, however, completes the information-gathering process. For instance, there is a great deal of difference in the level of sophistication of software from vendor to vendor. No general written report can provide an exhaustive study of either the range of services available nor the capabilities of these services. Perhaps after starting with these reports, one might enlist the aid of a consultant?—Richard W. Meyer, *Indiana State University, Terre Haute*.

Gore, Daniel. *To Know a Library: Essays and Annual Reports, 1970-1976*. New Directions in Librarianship, number 1. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1978. 379p. \$18.95. LC 77-84769. ISBN 0-8371-9881-X.

Daniel Gore has acquired a host of critics as well as admirers over the years, and this alone should guarantee a wide readership for this collection of his writings. A careful reading of the book may well change some opinions about Gore and his theories.

The early 1970s were extremely difficult years for private higher education in the United States. It seems clear that the true severity of the situation facing many private academic libraries during those years was seldom fully appreciated, except by those who experienced at first hand the effects of what was popularly known as "retrenchment." Conditions at Gore's Macalester College, described in the introduction to his book, were little worse than those confronting many similar institutions. Between 1970 and 1975, the total library budget declined by 33 percent, the materials budget was reduced by 25 percent, and library staffing was cut by more than 50 percent.

Gore's response to these grim statistics is described at the beginning of the book in a series of ten essays. His strategies range from the use of compact shelving for actively used collections, to delaying the cataloging of new acquisitions for as much as a year after receipt, to the development of the no-growth library. Although nearly all of these essays have been published previously, their availability in a single volume where they can be read as a systematic statement of theory strengthens their impact considerably.

Unlike many librarians who love to theorize but hesitate to act, Gore practices what he preaches. More than two-thirds of the text is devoted to the publication of the annual reports of the Macalester College Library. Despite the limitations of form, which even a writer of Gore's enviable talents cannot entirely overcome, the reports are well worth a careful reading. They explain, in detail, how Gore's theories have been applied to the operation of his library and how those innovations have affected library use and library users.

Gore's attitude toward the sweeping changes made at Macalester under his direction can be easily summarized. "Sweet are the uses of adversity. When 'lean-looking prophets whisper fearful change,' that is the time to turn bleak adversity into bright op-

portunity" (p.64). He believes his library not only survived the lean years of the early 1970s but actually prospered. Determining the accuracy of that claim has a special interest and importance for the profession at this particular time. Thanks to the now infamous Proposition 13, or one of its many offspring presently in utero, academic librarians at a number of publicly supported institutions now face the prospect of having to cope with the same dismal conditions that earlier challenged Daniel Gore.

A dispassionate analysis of the annual reports argues convincingly that the Macalister Library did indeed survive some extremely rough years, perhaps in even better condition than might have been anticipated. For this, no small achievement, Daniel Gore can rightfully claim credit. However, Gore's confident assertion that his is "a library that has prospered through years of heavy weather" remains very much a matter of opinion. This reviewer remains unconvinced of the superiority of Gore's innovations or their usefulness as a model for other libraries.—Robert L. Burr, *Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington.*

***Collection Building: Studies in the Development & Effective Use of Library Resources.*** Syracuse, N.Y.: Gaylord Professional Publications, in association with Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc. 1978—. \$55 per vol. Issued three times a year. ISSN 0160-4953.

***Collection Management: A Quarterly Journal Devoted to the Management of Library Collections.*** New York: Haworth Pr., 1976—. \$25 per vol. Issued quarterly. (V.1, nos.1 and 2, published under the title *De-Acquisitions Librarian*.) ISSN 0146-2679.

***Library Acquisitions: Practice and Theory.*** Elmsford, N.Y.: Pergamon, 1977—. \$25 per vol. Issued quarterly. ISSN 0364-6408.

***The Serials Librarian.*** New York: Haworth Pr., 1976—. \$25 per vol. Issued quarterly. ISSN 0361-526X.

In these days of tight money and wildly escalating serial costs, new periodicals in any field must justify their existence by providing more and better information on key topics than the existing journals. Enter-

prising editors must offer potential subscribers fresh insights and objective, evaluative studies that will attract and hold their interest.

These four new, or relatively recent, journals cover various aspects of the planning, development, and management of resources in large and small libraries of all types. Their aim is to acquaint library personnel from paraprofessionals to specialist bibliographers with the latest trends, issues, and policies in this relatively neglected field. In relation to the existing periodical literature each of them attempts to fill a perceived long-standing need for more analytical and practical information on the complexity of acquisitions work.

The audience for which these four specialized journals are primarily intended appears to be library workers who are already heavily involved in collection building. As one might expect, the journals differ considerably in their aims, policy, content, and even in their definition of the field they cover.

Predictably, the articles range from technical papers and research reports to interpretive essays and how-to-do-it pieces. A few reading lists on special topics are also included. The varying quality of these journals can to some extent be attributed to each editor's ability, or lack of it, to recruit contributors ranging from well-known names in library literature writing on familiar topics to neophyte scholars just out of graduate school.

As its title indicates, *Collection Building* deals with this important range of professional activities "in libraries of every category and size." Its editors and publishers point out that relatively little attention has been given in the past to collection development in small and medium-size libraries. They further charge that "only in the large university-research library is excellence in resources development [regarded as] a necessary or realizable goal." In his introductory editorial Walter Curley, associate director of the Detroit Public Library, promises not only to publish regularly bibliographic essays and developmental profiles of noteworthy collections but also to sponsor "specific studies on diverse aspects of collection development." An editorial board com-