

date of publication, other resources (this would be very helpful to the users on the local campus), reference to other subject policy statements of interest to this clientele, levels of collecting intensity, and, finally, a statement on the collection's strengths and weaknesses.

The policy uses a system of six levels for definition of collecting levels, the five from *Library Resources & Technical Services* 21:42 (Winter 1977), plus one called "exhaustive." These designations are overly broad, though a few are further broken down, such as for maps and music. The statements are usually in standard English, rather than library-ese, so that even students and faculty can comprehend them! Some are refreshingly honest—for example, the strengths and weaknesses summary for architecture and urban design.

Business administration covers fourteen pages, including an entire page on purpose, a summary of the reference collection, business periodicals, business books, a study of the effectiveness of the approval and standing order program as it affects monographs, the percentage of publications received, importance of the work of the bibliographer, and a study of core titles (wandering a bit afield?).

The children's collection statement tells what it is not, plus the admission that it is an "unselective collection." For economics there is much on the history of the local collection, including comments on the uncataloged titles—one may question if this belongs in a collection development policy.

There are policies on some new or unusual collections, such as women's studies, university archives, special collections, social welfare, radiation biophysics, other foreign languages, museum of natural history, current fiction, and applied English. Much work went into this compilation, and it is well indexed.—*Wilmer H. Baatz, Indiana University, Bloomington.*

Martin, Susan K. *Library Networks, 1978-79.*

White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, 1978. 144p. \$24.50 pbk.; \$29.50 hardbound. LC 78-10666. ISBN 0-914236-26-1; 0-914236-18-0 pbk.

This is the third edition of a work that was originally issued by Knowledge Industry Publications in 1974. Although Susan Martin did

not prepare the first edition, she revised it in 1976 and again last year. By heeding criticisms of the earlier volumes, Martin has managed to produce a generally excellent overview of recent activities in on-line bibliographic networking throughout North America. Her new book discusses computerized library systems in terms of individual libraries, regional networks, and national programs.

Writing for librarians and for those in business who require only a brief introduction to on-line networks for libraries, Martin has not created a scholarly monograph, but she has included some footnotes and a bibliography.

The eleven chapters deal concisely with such topics as: the growth and scope of networking; uses and standards for machine-readable data; major computer utilities (OCLC, BALLOTS, UTLAS, and WLN); existing network organizations; commercial suppliers of services and systems; relations with hardware manufacturers, subcontractors, and consultants; selection, operation, and management of on-line systems; unsolved issues and problems in network development and implementation; planning for a national library information network; and merging traditional library cooperatives with on-line systems. Computer-based indexing and abstracting services are only mentioned parenthetically.

The information supplied is definitely current, with references to 1978 publications and events, including the adoption of Proposition 13, appearing frequently in this volume. Networking plans for 1979 and subsequent years are also given in some instances. In the appendix are up-to-date (mid-1978) listings for twenty-six on-line bibliographic networks operating in the United States and Canada. While entries vary considerably in detail, most provide the following data: location, membership (with a complete list of member libraries), director, a status report, and future plans.

This book contains a two-page bibliography and a two-page index, both of which need improvement. Nevertheless, *Library Networks, 1978-79* is a very useful, albeit inordinately overpriced, publication.—*Leonard Grundt, Nassau Community College, Garden City, New York.*

Jeffries, John. *A Guide to the Official Publications of the European Communities.* New



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PUBLISHING CORPORATION

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York: Facts on File, 1978. 178p. \$20. LC 78-3183. ISBN 0-87196-371-X.

A bibliographic research guide to European Communities documentation has long been needed, and this publication admirably fills the bill. It begins with a summary (peppered with suggestions for further reading) of the history and structure of the European Communities and includes a detailed history of the *Official Journal* and brief but adequate coverage of the working documents of the Communities (COM and SEC documents and *Working Documents* of the European Parliament).

The *Guide* is primarily intended as an update to the *Catalogue des publications 1952-1971*, volume 1 (Brussels: European Communities, 1972), after which it is patterned. The emphasis is on serial publications, although some monographs are also included. The *Guide* summarizes serial information found in the earlier *Catalogue*, then details all subsequent issues and new titles, covering author, title, frequency, format, and content changes, and listing all new titles in monographic series.

Especially welcome is the listing by title of all monographic supplements to the *Bulletin of the European Communities*. The chapter on Statistical Office publications was well done; Jeffries appears to have caught the numerous changes occurring in these series in recent years.

The book includes a welcome list of European Communities abbreviations and acronyms and concludes with a chapter of bibliographic aids produced by the Communities, a list of addresses for acquiring publications, and a list of European Documentation Centres and depository libraries around the world.

Jeffries has done an exemplary job on a difficult subject. His *Guide* is certainly easier to use than the earlier *Catalogue*, not only because it is published in English, but also due to its readable format, excellent annotations, and index.

A few minor problems could be noted. His cut-off date is hazy; it appears to be 1975 or mid-1976. While the work could be considered dated already, it is not noticeably so, and Jeffries does note possible changes under consideration. There is one typographical error on page 20: The *Collected Acts* relating to association agreements are not discussed on page 00,

but on page 99. This was difficult to ascertain from the index; it was not found there under "collected acts" but only under "association agreements," for which two pages were cited. In general, however, the index is good.

This volume is important not only to European Communities depositories but to any research institution involved with studies of Western European political and economic affairs.—*Carolyn W. Kohler, University of Iowa, Iowa City.*

Williams, Patrick, and Pearce, Joan Thornton.

The Vital Network: A Theory of Communication and Society. Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science, number 25. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Pr., 1978. 111p. \$13.95. LC 77-94757. ISBN 0-313-20324-5. ISSN 0084-9243.

Since bibliographic and information networks are topics of consuming interest in the profession today, many librarians may acquire this title in the hopes that it will provide some insight into the elusive goal we all seek—a vital network. These hopes will be disappointed; the subtitle, *A Theory of Communication and Society*, is more descriptive of the book's contents.

Some librarians who acquire this work as a result of its misleading title may find that doing so is a rewarding mistake. The purpose of the work is to present a theory of macrocommunication systems that would provide librarians and other communication professionals a theoretical model from which to derive values and priorities.

Briefly, the theory is a simplified derivative from the works of George Herbert Mead and Lev Vygotsky. It starts with the position that human intelligence is the product of language; the "cultural biosystem," which encompasses science, literature, and social and political institutions, is essentially a communications system. The ability to communicate is the foundation of human existence, and communication is the ultimate human activity. Naturally, the theory reflects well on the significance of the role of "communication professionals."

After establishing and to some extent justifying this broad framework, the authors analyze three communication industries—entertainment, journalism, and education—in terms of their roles in American society. These chapters present a series of observations that at

times are interesting and provocative but provide little systematic evidence in support of the authors' theory. Basically, Williams and Pearce have succeeded in establishing a point of view and presenting a few examples. Although the point of view is held with some consistency, it is not developed systematically in sufficient depth to warrant the name of "theory."

The approach of this book must be considered somewhat oblique if it is aimed specifically at our librarians. Librarianship is treated in a brief postscript, but no attempt is made to establish the relevance of the theory to librarianship in the course of presenting the theory in the main text. In light of the series in which this title is published, it would have been appropriate to treat librarianship at least to the same degree as entertainment, journalism, and education. Had such an effort been made, the authors might have come closer to achieving their goal.

Nevertheless, Williams and Pearce have produced a book that is provocative enough that it may be of interest to librarians who have the time to indulge their reflective moods on the role of the profession in society.—*Joe A. Hewitt, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.*

Stern, Madeleine B. *Books and Book People in 19th-Century America.* New York: Bowker, 1978. 341p. \$25. LC 78-12197. ISBN 0-8352-1109-6.

For almost four decades Madeleine Stern's well-written essays and anecdotes have graced the pages of journals and monographs, reminding us of the rich heritage of our nation's book trade. Some twenty-three of those essays are now brought together in this volume, which is well designed in a manner appropriate to its subject. The resulting medley should provide several evenings of agreeable reading for anyone interested in the subject.

Virtually the entire contents of the book have appeared elsewhere. Readers who remember Stern's *Imprints on History* (Indiana University Press, 1956) might choose to think of this book as its second volume, so similar are the styles and contents of the two, were it not that fully fifty pages from the earlier title are reprinted here. The integrity of the subject of *Books and Book People*, however, and the fact that some of its pieces are reproduced from