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.


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.