

The volume is extremely well done in what it does include. However, the title implies that this volume will discuss COM applications to library activities. Several library applications are alluded to in this volume, but none are handled in depth. This lack does not overshadow the importance of the hardware and software of the COM process to libraries.

Most library COM activities will probably be handled by a service bureau. But librarians have to deal with the service bureaus and with the computing staff developing the software. The volume is a needed tool for the librarian contemplating COM applications.

The value of this volume to COM users outside the library field should not be overlooked. All COM users need to have a general understanding of the technical side of the process.

This type of publication would have been a very useful tool for those who pioneered COM applications in libraries. Librarians currently anticipating the use of COM should refer to it. The value of this publication will, of course, be limited by the changing technology in the COM area. Certain capabilities of COM service bureaus are not mentioned, since their development and availability have occurred in the last few months. Because the whole area of computer usage and COM applications by libraries is changing rapidly, more books of this type are needed.—*Helen R. Citron, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta.*

Perreault, Jean M. *The Idea of Order in Bibliography*. Sarada Ranganathan Lectures, no. 9. Bangalore: Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science, 1978. 135p. \$8.50

This set of six lectures is a heavily philosophically oriented disquisition on the significance of order in bibliographic files. The fundamental thesis is that, for searching to be successful, the searcher must be able to predict the location of an item in a file, requiring that the file be designed with this need in mind. The work is limited to alphabetically ordered files.

The subject matter of these lectures is extremely important. One wishes that all those responsible for file arrangement un-

derstood and applied the points the author is making. Unfortunately, the practical cataloger and head of cataloging who stand most in need of the points elucidated are unlikely to wade through the rather abstruse philosophical arguments. Furthermore, having done so, they will find little practical assistance; only readers who are prepared to apply philosophical abstractions for themselves will be able to profit.

The lectures are approximately equally divided between subject and non-subject cataloging. The work of several other authors is criticized in a very thoughtful fashion (the reader should find these criticisms quite useful), but the basis for selection of the works criticized seems idiosyncratic.

The thoughts and ideas presented in this work are valuable and will reward the reader who has the patience to work through them. It would be a service to the profession if the author would undertake to re-present his ideas in a form more suited to those who need to hear them.—*Jessica L. Harris, St. John's University, New York, New York.*

How to Start an Audiovisual Collection.

Edited by Myra Nadler. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1978. 157p. \$7. LC 78-1993. ISBN 0-8108-1124-3.

Cabeceiras, James. *The Multimedia Library: Materials Selection and Use*. Library and Information Science. New York: Academic Press, 1978. 275p. \$13. LC 77-11209. ISBN 0-12-153950-4.

Other than the fact that they are both committed to the concept of multimedia library service, these two books really have very little in common. Nadler's book is a collection of essays (each by a different author) intended to help launch a public library audiovisual program. The choice of *audiovisual* in the title is deliberate; this is a book about how to add nonprint services to an already functioning print collection. The Cabeceiras book, on the other hand, is a systematic treatment by one author of the characteristics and utilization of various forms of media in a generalized library setting; this author uses the umbrella term *multimedia* to emphasize the fact that he is dealing with library programs where print and nonprint resources exist as coequals.