

ryphal and help to emphasize the problems.

This text should supersede many of the earlier (and poorer) articles in the field and should be basic reading, for some time, for North American map librarians, whether experienced or beginners, and for nonmap librarians who want to know what is happening in the field.—*Joan Winearls, University of Toronto.*

The Information Society: Issues and Answers. American Library Association's Presidential Commission for the 1977 Detroit Annual Conference. Edited with a Preface and Introduction by E. J. Josey and a Foreword by Clara Stanton Jones. A Neal-Schuman Professional Book. Phoenix, Ariz.: Oryx Press, 1978. 133p. \$11.95. LC 78-17708. ISBN 0-912700-16-5.

The ALA program in Detroit two summers ago attempted an ambitious departure from the usual Annual Conference format: an all-day, plenary, think/talk session devoted to an examination of some major problems librarians face in the emerging "post-industrial society."

Five major speakers followed in the wake of a keynote address by Norman Isaacs, a communications specialist from Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism (who harangued the gathering on those shortcomings of librarians—negativism, arrogance, self-serving behavior, absurd bureaucratic routines—he presumed must stand in the way of libraries becoming "working community centers," a function he saw as their higher calling).

OCLC director Fred Kilgour briefly reviewed past applications of technology to libraries, chiefly in cataloging, and invited participants to speculate on the fountain of beneficial effects about to shower forth as computer technology moved librarianship into "another of its great ages." New York State Senator Major Owens lambasted librarians for failing to respond positively to social change during the past twenty years and, with the White House Conference in mind, called for greater participation by librarians in the government's policy-making procedures in order to overcome public indifference.

Thomas Buckman, president of the Foun-

dation Center, treated information as a commodity and discussed the economic implications posed by new technology; Gerald Shields of the School of Information and Library Studies, SUNY Buffalo, invited analysis of the new role of librarians resulting from that technology; and Fay Blake of the School of Library Science, University of California at Berkeley, warned that public access to information must be determined, not by technology, but by librarians with a clear notion of their patrons' need.

Following each address, the audience of some 1,500 participants broke up into small group discussions and proceeded to kick around these and other topics. It was, as one participant said, "the world's largest reactor panel."

It is chiefly as a record of the event that publication of conference proceedings must be judged, and as a record this one is intelligently designed, well edited, and thorough. Feedback from the discussion groups is summarized and presented along with the texts of principal speeches; the editor's inclusion of reviews of literature prepared as handouts for the discussion sessions—and in some instances the review essays were more stimulating than the formal addresses themselves—gives the volume some claim to utility.

Predictably, although some of the fundamental concerns are shared by academic librarians (especially the identity crisis of the professional librarian caught up in a changing economic and technological environment), the public library context of the session, as well as its necessarily superficial and hortatory treatment of issues, made it—and makes its tardy report—of only incidental interest to the vast majority of readers of this journal.—*W. A. Moffett, State University of New York, College at Potsdam.*

Conroy, Barbara. *Library Staff Development and Continuing Education: Principles and Practices.* Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1978. 268p. \$17.50 U.S. and Canada; \$21 elsewhere. LC 78-18887. ISBN 0-87287-177-0.

This book provides an in-depth presentation of all aspects of establishing staff development and continuing education pro-