tions. The guide itself is advertised at $35 while Books in Print 1977/78 quotes a price of $17.50. At the latter price it should be in every research library.


Bibliotherapy is “a program of activity based on the interactive processes of the use of print and nonprint materials whether imaginative or informational, facilitated by a librarian or other professional, to achieve insight into normal development or to effect changes in emotionally disturbed behavior,” according to the author.

In Using Bibliotherapy: A Guide to Theory and Practice Rhea Joyce Rubin traces the development of this adjunct therapy in the United States. During a typical session the bibliotherapist presents the material to a group or to an individual, hoping that identification with a remote character and projection leading to catharsis will occur. Essential to the process is discussion on a personal level, an avenue for the client’s insight into the solution of his or her own problems. The differences between bibliotherapy and the newer poetry therapy are enumerated. Both have proved beneficial in hospitals, correctional institutions, educational environments, and community settings.

Success for bibliotherapists seems to depend more on personal qualities such as emotional stability and the ability to relate well with people than on academic background. Professionally, the preferred combination of disciplines includes library science, psychology, and literature, with field service training recommended. Rubin quotes from several sources on each of the above points to demonstrate that the information on bibliotherapy is conflicting and confusing.

In selecting materials for bibliotherapy, the content is more important than the literary quality. The suggested juvenile books and films, arranged and cross-referenced by topic, draw heavily from those of the last five years. An extensive, much-needed bibliography of poems, plays, short stories, films, and books for adults deals with subjects causing problems for them.

In the companion volume, Bibliotherapy Sourcebook, Rubin gathers studies from various sources and disciplines into a book to facilitate research. The section, “Classic Works on Bibliotherapy (1927–1949),” includes selections by William Menninger, Alice I. Bryan, and Caroline Shrodes.

The second part, “The View from Other Disciplines,” shows that bibliotherapy combines with a number of fields. The editor selected writings illustrating how bibliotherapy is linked to psychiatry, education, counseling, occupational therapy, and poetry therapy.

“Bibliotherapy and Library Science,” the third part, begins with two articles that provide an overview of the goals, methods, and limitations of bibliotherapy. Other contributions demonstrate the opportunities for its use in diverse settings.

During the last twenty years, foreign journals have published much on bibliotherapy. The final section, “Foreign Perspectives,” describes such programs in England, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, the USSR, and Sweden, none of which are so sophisticated as those in the United States.

Numerous references at the end of every chapter, plus bibliographies, indexes, and indexes in both volumes, increase their usefulness. Because they include the works of the best-known authors in the field, these could be used as textbooks for a course on bibliotherapy. They should help to fulfill Margaret E. Monroe’s wish in the foreword
of Using Bibliotherapy that they "will lead the alert, prepared librarian-bibliotherapist to undertake the research needed to move bibliotherapy from its status as an activity to its desired status of an art and a controlled science."—Sister Alma Marie Walls, I.H.M., Immaculata College, Immaculata, Pennsylvania.


Gerald Bramley's Outreach covers both the British and U.S. aspects of library service to the institutionalized, the elderly, and the handicapped. Two chapters each are devoted to hospital libraries and prison libraries; one each to library services for the elderly, the disabled, the blind, the partially sighted, the mentally retarded, and the deaf. Generally, the background and services for each group are described first for Great Britain and then for the U.S. with footnote references at the end of each chapter. Curiously, however, the chapter on library services for the disabled is almost entirely devoted to the British scene with only one of the twenty citations referring to a U.S. publication.

It is evident throughout the work that both countries have faced similar problems in attempting to provide outreach services. With a chronic lack of personnel and funds, both have relied heavily on volunteers to staff programs, and few programs to any of the groups have been notably successful.

The chapters on the blind and partially sighted are probably the most comprehensive, giving detailed descriptions of the Braille and Moon systems, talking and large-print books, cassettes, and services, such as those offered by RNIB (Royal National Institute for the Blind) and the National Library of Talking Books, both of which are British. DBPH (the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, now the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped) and the American Printing House for the Blind are also described. The chapter on services to the deaf is the least comprehensive, a result, probably, of the dearth of literature in this area.

The book is intended primarily for students of librarianship and for those beginning their professional careers. While there are some minor inaccuracies, e.g., reference to Rhea Rubin as "he" (p.86); "Christina" for Christa (p.116); and reference to the introduction of the Library Services and Construction "Bill" in 1966—LSCA was passed in 1965 (p.169), as a comparative study of British and U.S. approaches to outreach services, it does fulfill its purpose and provides a good overall view.

In addition to the references found at the end of each chapter, there is a select reading list and index in the appendix. Concerning any detailed account of U.S. involvement in these types of outreach services, however, one must go considerably beyond what is found in this work. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a crucial piece of legislation underlying any service to the disabled, for example, is not mentioned. It should be useful to those in public libraries but less so for those in academic and special libraries.—Lucille Whalen, State University of New York at Albany.


This book describes how five presses would publish the same book, No Time for House Plants by "Purvis Mulch." The same 180-page manuscript with illustrations was presented to the university presses of Chicago, North Carolina, Texas, Toronto, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Each press agreed to treat this manuscript as if it were actually going to publish it and to prepare complete logs of the work for presentation in One Book/Five Ways.

The presentations run from thirty-five to sixty-six pages, but all conform to the same outline covering the four major aspects of publishing: acquisitions and administration,