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Human beings seem to be divided into two groups: those who recognize the need for something but do nothing about it (except perhaps complain about its lack) and those who, realizing a need, set to work to fill that need. Leslie T. Morton, the editor of this work and formerly librarian of the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, London, is one of the latter group. (His tale of hiding the shoeboxes containing the cards for "Garrison-Morton" under the dining room table in World War II air raids is characteristic of the man.) Author of books on how to use a medical library and directories of medical libraries, as well as his famous "Garrison-Morton" (medical bibliography), without which no medical librarian could purchase rare books or mount a historical exhibit, he has now come out with a second edition of his *Use of Medical Literature*, which first appeared in 1974.

The work is a series of articles by specialists in each subject field, written for other specialists or for beginners going into one field from another specialty. As such it has the admirable qualities of authority and pragmatism, but also the poor qualities of unevenness in coverage and style and inevitable gaps and duplication. Most of the chapters are lists of books and journals with a few words explaining the general subject and other descriptions about the individual titles. The second edition follows the lines—and often the texts—of the first edition, but adds historical sections to each of the subject chapters, offers an entirely new chapter on pediatrics, and revises extensively the chapter on mechanization in literature indexes. Indeed, that chapter is perhaps the only one so thoroughly revised—due to the advent of both on-line capabilities in computerized data bases and the growth of the number of such data bases—that it makes a second edition reasonable and logical. Without it, a small supplement to the first edition would probably have sufficed for some time.

American readers will note the British emphasis on works cited and institutions recommended, as is to be expected in such a work; but they will also note the great in-

fluence of American efforts in this field. The National Library of Medicine and its publications and data bases are extensively described, and the cost of many services is given in American dollars. Less frequent references to German, French, Italian, or Russian material—to say nothing of non-European works—mirror the natural tendency for English-speaking scientists to stay within their own linguistic capabilities as much as possible. This tendency has, of course, been reinforced by the fact that the overwhelming percentage of scientific literature today appears in the English language.

Altogether this volume points to the much more common personal involvement by British scientists in literature searching and reading than by their American colleagues. The tradition of reading and studying the publications of others is obviously still a British tradition, which might well be accepted more frequently in the United States.

The book is well printed and the binding is what one expects from the Butterworth series Information Sources for Research and Development. The only question has to do with the price of the book. Even with inflation and the sinking of the worth of the American dollar internationally, does this book really merit a price of \$24.95? We doubt it.—*Estelle Brodman, School of Medicine, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.*

**Inter-Library Lending—The Challenge of Cooperation.** [*Fjernlån—samarbeid med utfordringer*]. Lectures and Discussions Held at the Conference on Inter-Library Lending, Lysebu, Oslo, August 1977. Edited by Kirsten Engelstand and Jan Erik Røed. (Scandiaplanen. Skriftserie 4.) Oslo: Hovedkomiteen for Scandiaplanen, 1978. 154p. NCr 75. ISBN 82-7000-066-3. (Available from: The National Office for Research and Special Libraries, P.O. 2439 Solli, Oslo 2, Norway.)

The Scandia Plan was organized in the 1950s by Sweden, Norway, and Finland. Its initial purpose was to bring about a more efficient coordination of the acquisition of literature among the Nordic countries. In 1972 a special committee was appointed to coordinate inter-Nordic lending, and the

conference at Oslo in 1977 is one result of its work.

The published proceedings come at a propitious time for United States libraries when a great deal of thought and concern has been expended upon the development and implementation of a national library service policy. The papers are divided into two major sections: interlibrary lending in non-Nordic countries, and interlibrary lending in the Nordic countries. It is unfortunate that the Nordic presentations could not have been translated—one must be content with English-language summaries—but the sections dealing with non-Nordic lending are presented in English and in their entirety.

Maurice Line's exposition of the British Library Lending Division (BLLD)'s streamlined document delivery pleads the case well for a highly centralized national lending system. In contrast, Jurgen Heydrich's description of West Germany's intricate and decentralized lending picture is emphatically not a model to be emulated. User frustration must be widespread in West Germany, as a large percentage of requests are returned unfilled after many months, and bearing a great number of official stamps, mutely testifying to the bureaucratic hands through which they have unsuccessfully passed.

Conversely, simplicity, extremely minimal record-keeping, and speed are keynotes of the British system, and although the BLLD charges for its services, the number of requests handled has risen dramatically from 118,000 in 1962 to 2,540,000 in 1976, demonstrating users are not at all reluctant to pay for a reasonable turn-around time.

While the avowed purpose of the conference was to set goals for interlibrary lending and planning among Nordic countries, two themes recur that transcend regional concerns. First is the need for each country to develop a strong, centralized national bibliographic system, buttressed with adequate and reliable financial support. Second, the concept of universal availability of publications, already acknowledged by the International Federation of Library Associations and by UNESCO, must be recognized and understood.

As Line points out, universal biblio-

graphic control made possible by computer technology will avail us little if the documents to which they refer are not readily accessible. When, and only when, the concept of availability has been accepted and a concrete plan developed for its fulfillment at the national level, can a truly effective international interlibrary lending structure be postulated.

For librarians interested in expanding, promoting, and strengthening international interlibrary lending, careful study of the Oslo document is indispensable to an assessment of the present state of the art, and the editors are to be commended for this contribution to the literature.—*Alice Weaver, University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio.*

Saffady, William. *Computer-Output Microfilm: Its Library Applications*. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1978. 190p. \$10.50. LC 78-18416. ISBN 0-8389-3217-7.

This readable description of computer-output microfilm (COM) is a must for libraries or other groups considering COM usage. The coverage of COM hardware and software is outstanding. The considerations involved in output selection, COM display equipment, and retrieval coding and indexing are discussed in detail.

This report includes a description of the state-of-the-art through January 1978. Limitations as listed by the author include (1) libraries as users not owners of COM recorders, (2) mention of representative equipment, and (3) an appendix that lists COM recorders available in the United States. These are not seen as limitations of this volume by this reviewer. Libraries currently need a broad introduction to COM hardware and software. Specifics in COM hardware will change with improvements in the technology.

This volume includes an excellent glossary of COM terms that librarians and others need to know and understand. There are pictures showing various types of hardware. The appendix includes a formula for determining monthly COM costs, a list of companies specializing in the production of COM catalogs for libraries, and a selected bibliography.