able debt to Lee Ash mounts.—Marc Git-
telsohn, University of California, San Di-
ego.

Prentice, Ann E. Strategies for Survival: 
Library Financial Management Today. LJ 
Special Report #7. New York: Library 
Journal, 1978. 56p. $5; cash with order, 
$3.95 ISBN 0-8352-1144-4. ISSN 0362- 
448X.

A fairly current and well-balanced selec-
tion of principles, techniques, and meth-
odologies to aid the library administrator in 
financial decision making during times of 
fiscal stress, this concise "report" could 
serve as a handy outline of some major 
management issues facing library directors 
today.

The Delphi technique, community 
analysis, program and performance budget-
ing, ZBB, model building, and other cur-
rently sexy economic analysis techniques are 
sketches. (For an antidote see De Gen-
naro's masterful put-down of same in the 
December 15, 1978, Library Journal.) How 
budget cuts may affect various personnel 
management issues and what the library can 
do to maintain control in this area are the 
subject of Sheila Creth's (University of 
Connecticut Library) chapter.

A discussion of some library services that 
may be contracted out or implemented 
through automation is nicely balanced by a 
chapter on ways to raise money within the 
library (fees, Ms. Blake).

Further potential for easing the financial 
burden on libraries is seen in the chapters 
on resource sharing and "Architectural Con-
siderations," the most useful of which are 
conducting an "energy audit" of the library 
and determining the cost of renovation ver-
sus construction. Some general advice on 
the cost of automating services is only min-
imally useful.

Evaluation of services, the one area in 
which libraries traditionally have been 
weak, is the subject of the last chapter. (Un-
fortunately, Lancaster's important work, The 
Measurement and Evaluation of Library 
Services, is not included in the bibliogra-
phy.)

Within such short chapters Prentice and 
others manage to balance their present-
tations with relevant con arguments and 
cautions. One strain that comes through all 
ten chapters is the suggested analytical and 
quantitative approach to economic decision 
making in libraries and the implication that 
seat-of-the-pants, intuitive management is 
inadequate to deal with complex library 
problems.

Armed with a fleshed-out understanding 
of the ideas presented here in skeletal form 
(the bibliography items are essential reading 
for anyone wishing to go beyond Prentice's 
treatment), the neophyte may gain a good 
understanding of the major issues and 
trends in library management today, 
whereas the seasoned administrator could 
use the "report" to fill in some gaps in his 
or her knowledge.—Albert F. Maag, Capi-
tal University, Columbus, Ohio.

COM Systems in Libraries: Current British 
Practice. Edited by S. J. Teague.

Guildford, Surrey: Microfilm Association 
of Great Britain, 1978. 49p. £4 (£3 to 
(Available from: Microfilm Association 
of Great Britain, 8 High St., Guildford, Sur-
rey GU2 5AJ.)

This pamphlet contains seven articles dis-
cussing computer output microfilm (COM) 
applications at seven British libraries. Ad-
vantages and disadvantages of COM are dis-
cussed within the specific setting outlined at 
each institution. Limited insight into the au-
tomated library system behind each applica-
tion can be gained by careful reading of 
each article.

This reviewer is particularly impressed 
with the cooperation of British libraries, 
which several of these articles discuss. Each 
library's operation is different, yet each has 
elements of commonality. The meeting, 
which was attended by most of the libraries 
represented in this publication, with COM 
vendors provides insight into the British li-
brary scene. This type of activity produced 
excellent results in Britain.

Advantages and disadvantages are dis-
cussed from the viewpoint of each COM 
application. A general theme is evident in 
the change from film to fiche, either com-
pleted or planned at each library. The rea-
sons cited for this change to fiche are as 
valid in the U.S. as Britain.

The reasons given for the change to fiche
are: (1) cost of fiche equipment is lower, (2) fiche equipment has less mechanical problems, (3) the cost of COM fiche is cheaper than COM film, and (4) the library's users found fiche easier to use.

All but three of these articles are revised versions of papers published in Microdoc. This duplication of publishing seems a bit unnecessary. However, the collection of these articles in one publication may have some advantages to British readership. This publication would have been greatly enhanced for the American library reader if a glossary of abbreviations had been included.

Even with the limitations cited above and the additional one of the brevity of each article, this publication has merit for the American librarian. The positive points are: (1) the diversity of applications of COM in British libraries, (2) the strong trend in Britain to COM fiche and reasons for this trend, and (3) the cooperative approach to library COM problems.—Helen R. Citron


This book may easily become the librarian's best friend by suggesting ways to lessen the risk of fire in the library and by lightening the director's concern, if disaster strikes, about a decision made in a hurry to salvage the collection. Recently experiencing the impact of such a burden in directing an early Sunday morning rescue operation of a water-damaged collection of periodicals, I know how soothing it is to be able to confirm one's own decision in print.

Managing the Library Fire Risk is written explicitly for library administrators. Its main goal is to convince librarians that books do burn, that they are very combustive, but also that they don't have to be vulnerable to fire igniting arson, malfunctioning equipment, or natural causes of damage. Half of the book's ten chapters dramatize the immense destructive power of library fires, well demonstrated by the Gondring Library fire in California that was started by a single paper match dropped into a bookdrop, and which ended in $200,000 damage (p.100).

The two introductory chapters of the book sketch the extent of fire risk, further documented by a historical overview of the world's major library fires (chapter IX and appendix 6). A case study of Temple University's Law Library fire in 1972 (chapter IV) examines in detail the lessons learned. A separate chapter on arson (chapter III) discusses one of the currently most prevailing causes of library fires.

The other five chapters of the book deal with fire prevention. Fires can be avoided, and if started, can be localized. For example, 70 percent of all fires in libraries equipped with automatic sprinklers are put out by the action of a single sprinkler head, minimizing the water damage of the volumes saved (p.29).

In a seemingly mislabeled chapter, “Alternatives for Protecting the Library Fire Risk” (chapter V), Morris reviews available fire protection systems, each reducing (not protecting) the risk of fires, by improving the protection against them. “Disaster Preparedness and Fire Prevention” (chapter VI) lists some water emergency and fire prevention guidelines; while the “Automatic Fire Protection System” (chapter VIII) discusses different types of detection and fire-extinguishing systems. Additional data are also provided by inclusion of manufacturers' descriptions of their fire preventive hardware.

The author's basic optimism is expressed in the chapter "Salvage of Wet Books" (chapter VII); the optimism is illustrated by his reference to a very successful restoration of a copy of Merchant's Almanac, recovered from a shipwreck sunk more than 100 years ago (p.47). The content of the book is brought up to date in the last chapter, “Library Risk Management: Current Topics.”

The publication is richly illustrated with most of the same photographs used in both the first and the second editions. In fact, the present edition does not replace the one published in 1975; it merely expands its coverage by adding two chapters (chapters IX and X) and three appendixes to the practically unchanged main body of the first edition. Even the dust jacket of the second, bound edition is the same as the cover of