

loss of these brought about by the actions of other users. In today's world, the library no longer enjoys a monopoly of information services. If the library is to survive in an increasingly competitive market, it must become more efficient. Braunstein argues that library efficiency can be enhanced by the adoption of appropriate pricing policies and by tailoring services to better meet patron needs.

The most provocative paper in the collection is Michael D. Cooper's "Economics of Library Size: A Preliminary Inquiry." His empirical research, conducted in the public library setting but still applicable to academic libraries, seems to indicate that average costs per measurable unit of output—measurable output includes materials cataloged, reference questions answered, items circulated, etc.—remain the same regardless of the size of the library or the population it serves. Despite the methodological problems that Cooper recognizes, including the difficulty of measuring many forms of library output, assigning appropriate weights to different kinds of output, and recognizing differences in the quality of output, this is an important study, which alone justifies the purchase of the volume.

The concluding essay by Maurice B. Line, entitled "The Psychopathology of Uneconomics," is pure delight. The responses of librarians unaccustomed to thinking in economic terms to growing demands that they do so are neatly and humorously classified. Students, faculty, and academic administrators are not spared, either. Line concludes with an apt reminder that an economic and systematic approach to librarianship is essential if we are to achieve our ultimate purpose of providing the best possible service to library users.—*Robert L. Burr, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington.*

American Library Association. Collection Development Committee. *Guidelines for Collection Development*. David Perkins, editor. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1979. 78p. \$5. LC 79-16971. ISBN 0-8389-3231-2.

Budgetary constraints and a growth in resource sharing have given libraries the impetus to establish new collection policies or

to revise old ones. This valuable publication brings together four guidelines that will greatly assist in this process. Task forces within the Resources Section of ALA's Resources and Technical Services Division (RTSD) have worked on these guidelines since 1974; librarians will find the guidelines well worth the wait.

The "Guidelines for the Formulation of Collection Development Policies" give a general overview of the need for clearly written policies and also present detailed suggestions on specifics to include in the policy, such as levels of collecting and language codes. The guidelines recommend that analysis of collecting by subject field be broken down by detailed Library of Congress class; the specific breakdown into subdivisions used in the comparative shelflist measurement project is included in the appendixes.

The "Guidelines for the Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Library Collections" list methods to use to determine if the collection is actually meeting the library's goals. Specific evaluation methods are listed, along with the pros and cons of each.

The "Guidelines for the Review of Library Collections" provide recommendations on ways to select items for discard, storage, or preservation.

And the "Guidelines for the Allocation of Library Materials Budgets" list factors to consider in budget allocation, methods to use, and a description of allocation by formula. A citation to, and description of, formulas proposed by McGrath, Dillehay, Gold, Kohut, and Pierce are given in the appendix.

Bibliographies compiled by three of the task forces are included, plus a separate, annotated list of items on collection development policies that was compiled by a special committee of the California Library Association. Although the annotations are helpful, this one section of the bibliography is older and lacks some important citations. (The excellent articles on collection development that appeared in the Winter 1979 issue of *Library Resources & Technical Services* are too recent to be included in the bibliography; they complement these guidelines and should be read with them.)

These guidelines, especially the one on

formulation of policies, provide an excellent combination of theory and specifics and are a base that individual libraries can use to establish procedures to help meet their individual needs. At only five dollars, this book is one of the best buys in library publishing.—William Schenck, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*.

Collection Management. LJ Special Report #11. New York: Bowker, 1979. 48p. \$5; cash with order, \$3.95. ISBN 0-8352-1215-7. ISSN 0362-448X.

This group of thirteen articles provides collection management ideas in a readable reportorial and inspirational style. Editor Karl Nyren has divided the *LJ*-size pamphlet into three topics: buying on a budget; the new special collection; and periodicals, needs/costs/uses.

The articles range from being quite specific in suggesting management responsibilities and methods to being rather philosophical in supporting the need for responsible collection management.

To buy on a budget, libraries are encouraged to use remainder houses, committees, computer data bases, rigorous use studies, and the process of developing a "collection development" policy as means for controlling expenditures.

Even in times of retrenchment a library keeps growing, changing, developing its programs. One means of doing so is to start a special collection. Nyren printed five essays that suggest the birthing process of, and then the maintenance methodology for, special collections. This section is especially reportorial/inspirational in nature, yet with bibliographic information amply presented.

The third section contains two essays about the need for, and methodology of, adequately managing the library's serials material. This section returns the reader to the need for more rigorous study of use, cost, and need for each subscription.

Though the price seems steep for a forty-eight-page production, the essays do provide ideas for the collection manager of any size or type of library. One weakness is

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