

ments in a major union list project and, as such, is a proper part of the literature. The self-examination is honest in pointing to errors and will be of considerable interest and value to other projects. The text is a classic exposition of what happens in the merger of differing machine-readable files.

A few poorly produced charts and the soft paper format bound with plastic strips are all minor when compared with the intellectual content and the contributions this analysis makes to union-listing in general. No one will want to curl up with this in front of a fire, but any union lister will learn from this document and should treat this analysis as a benchmark of what to avoid.—*Neal L. Edgar, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.*

Gabriel, Michael R., and Ladd, Dorothy P. *The Microform Revolution in Libraries*. Foundations in Library and Information Science. V.3. Greenwich, Conn.: JAI Press, 1980. 176p. \$24.50. LC 76-5646. ISBN 0-89232-008-7.

This informative book starts with a historical sketch of microphotography and an overview of microformats. These first two chapters are very readable and form a convenient setting for what is to follow.

The third chapter, on computer-output-microform (COM), is limited in scope. Prime attention is placed on the role of COM in production of library catalogs and other library activities. The role of COM as a print medium for non-library-generated publications is not discussed. With the diversity of COM applications, the potential for library resources generated by others through COM should have been mentioned.

Serials and monographs in microform compose the fourth and fifth chapters. The serials chapter provides some useful information for libraries converting or considering converting from hard copy to microform. The monograph chapter gets bogged down in a listing of large monographic collections available on microform. The listings are brief and highly selective and probably would have been best if eliminated.

The sixth chapter, "Micrographics and Government Publications," will be of great interest to document librarians. The num-

ber and diversity of government publications available in microform are discussed and examples cited. Again, this listing is not meant to be all-inclusive but representative. This chapter does not address some of the problems with document microforms, such as lack of quality control, which has caused at least some nonacceptance of this format by documents librarians.

Acquisition of microform and equipment for its use are the topic of Chapter 7. This chapter pulls together from several sources some guidelines for evaluation of microforms and equipment. The variety of sources for reviews of microforms and equipment are of prime interest to librarians and are well covered here. In addition, a select listing of micropublishers is included. This section could have been improved by the inclusion of some guidelines to use in considering the conversion from hard copy to microform or for selection of microform initially.

The eighth chapter reports some research findings on the comparison of hard copy and microform. Unfortunately, this interesting chapter is buried in the book. The readability of microforms has received so many derogatory comments that it is encouraging to see quoted readability studies favorable to microforms.

The last chapter deals with setting up a microform facility. This chapter would have been enhanced with a discussion of centralized versus decentralized facilities. Guidelines for either type of facilities and floor plans would also have been helpful.

Overall, this book represents a consolidation of material, possibly difficult to identify, and a helpful discussion of problems common to microforms. This book should be read by both practicing librarians and library school students. A useful glossary is included. Because of the specifics included, this volume will become obsolete quickly although it provides a good statement of the current status of microforms in libraries.—*Helen R. Citron, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta.*

Maltby, Arthur, and Gill, Lindy. *The Case for Bliss: Modern Classification Practice and Principles in the Context of the Bibliographic Classification*. London: Clive