with maximum reliance on in-house, online computer processing, gives credibility to her astute questions and predictions.

Do “Information Analysis Centers” lose their flavor after eighteen good and bad years? The question is thoughtfully and thoroughly answered, perhaps once and for all, by Carroll and Maskewitz. Librarians will profit from the sections on effectiveness and evaluation, marketing, and comparisons to libraries.

Tarrant’s “Computers in Publishing” repeats his 1975 tour de force, which slants toward scientific and technical publishing, especially chemistry. Absent is notice of the word-processing journal *Typeworld* (ISSN 0149-4851) and of the American Newspaper Publishers Association’s journal, *Presstime* (ISSN 0194-3243).

The awkward title “The Impacts of Computer-Mediated Organizational and Interpersonal Communication” belies a rewarding overview of a literature that librarians should know because of studies on organizational work life, employment, organizational structure, and personal communication.

In their definitive review of “Computer Assisted Legal Research,” Larson and Williams cover the five U.S. systems and provide insights and conclusions that have parallel implications for the database searching and user instruction worries of libraries. In sharp contrast to the legal literature is the review of the fuzzy literature dealing with information work in less developed countries. Keren and Harmon’s conclusion: things are tough all over. Their considered admonition to the UN, UNESCO, and the less developed countries seems also to apply to the library-information science tension that is as old as the ARIST series itself: “the danger of increasing the gap . . . is a real one” (p.310).—Larry X. Besant, Ohio State University Libraries, Columbus.


The editorial statement of purpose for this volume is to summarize the state of the art in online library automation systems. Eight papers discuss the status of and developments in the use of various systems: three papers are about online bibliographic retrieval systems and services, three papers describe user education and training in the use of these systems, and two papers discuss computerized periodical control and order systems. Six papers are in English, one in German, and one in French.

Of the three papers on bibliographic retrieval, the one entitled “Cross Data Base Searching,” using the SDC Search Service ORBIT retrieval system as an example, is very outdated in the fast-moving online world. It was written by two former SDC employees in 1978; considerable advances have been made in that system since that time. While the data are still accurate, they do not represent all that the system offers on the subject today. One paper, in German, describes the status of German, French, and U.S. online retrieval systems in the Federal Republic of Germany. The third paper is on the European Space Agency’s Information Retrieval Service using the RECON retrieval system. It is timely and accurate and a good summary of the most heavily used European online service.

The three papers about user education and training for bibliographic retrieval systems describe French developments and methods through 1979 (in French), U.S. experience with Computer-Assisted Instruction (CAI), and European experience in online-user education. All three are appropriate to the topic of the volume. The final two papers describe the Pekos online periodicals control system at the ETH-Bibliothek in Zurich and the Swets & Zeitlinger subscription service system.

The mix of papers is a bit uneven; there is no coverage of online cataloging and circulation systems. A better distribution would have been to include a paper on each of these kinds of systems at the expense of two papers on online bibliographic retrieval services. Aside from the overemphasis on bibliographic retrieval systems and the outdated paper on the SDC ORBIT system, this volume is acceptable as far as it goes. The available journal and review literature provides far better coverage of this topic than this single volume, which fails as a comprehensive overview of online library systems.—Ryan E. Hoover, SDC Search Service, System Development Corporation, Santa Monica, California.
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