

intended to bridge the gulf between librarians who keep forgetting that *Social Sciences Citation Index* is available online and those who have never thought of it any other way. It is instead a rigorously updated version of a reliable selective guide to printed sources, with useful annotations.

Reference Sources 1980 is the opposite of selective in its listing of reference works on a full array of subjects and levels of importance or triviality, identified through reviews or "books noted" columns in nearly 600 periodicals (a substantial increase over the 270 sources indexed by the 1979 volume). The first three annual volumes of this title listed works by main entry with editor and title cross-references and several subject indexes, and brief descriptive annotations were included. The 1980 volume is arranged by Library of Congress subject headings with author and title indexes and the annotations have been abandoned, though review citations are appended as usual.—*Jean Aroeste, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.*

On-line Public Access to Library Bibliographic Data Bases: Developments, Issues and Priorities. Final Report to the Council on Library Resources. OCLC, Inc., and the Research Libraries Group, Inc., September 1980. 62p.

The opening summary statement of this document is straightforward: "This report describes several activities to assess the critical issues and problems in designing and developing library bibliographic retrieval systems for direct patron use." We are several times reminded that no issues are resolved here, nor is any attempt at resolution made. The intention and the accomplishment was to draw together information and opinion as well as organizations and individuals in addressing this vital topic.

The report describes a survey of thirty-seven libraries, utilities, and consortia oper-

ating or developing public access systems. It describes (and includes the text in an appendix) an "issues statement" prepared for discussion by a "working session." The participants in these working sessions are identified in an appendix; the "consensus of their concerns" is summarized in the most interesting section of the document. The language of the report neutralizes what must have been lively and fascinating conversations. Consider, for example: "Although there were differing points of view on the readiness of the profession to formulate a whole range of standards, there was general agreement that the standard setting process should begin now."

The working group defined (made notes towards a definition is again closer to the spirit, I expect) a public access online catalog. At one point this process of definition does move perilously close to saying something definitive, however, given the groups involved; we are told that "locating all works by a specific author or on a specific subject implies authority control with an adequate reference structure." The working group identified four areas as having the highest priority for immediate study and action: "1) Analyzing user requirements and behavior 2) Monitoring existing public access systems 3) Developing methods for cost management and 4) Developing distributed computing and system links." The priorities are hard to quarrel with and their order correct and laudable.

If this report is written and presented in a manner not unlike most reports to sponsoring agencies, that fact should not discourage one from reading it with interest as well as gratitude. It would be hard to overstate the debt the profession and the public owes to the Council on Library Resources for taking up this vital question in this manner, for bringing together OCLC and RLG as coauthors of this report and the activities it describes.—*Ann Bristow Beltran, Indiana University, Bloomington.*

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