

monly well organized. Dr. McCrimmon has included a chronology extending from 1753 to 1979 that relates her story not only to serious political events, but also to its social environment by including such dates as the opening of *H. M. S. Pinafore* and Bond's introduction of electric light in the great reading room. *Power, Politics, and Print* is far more than the history of a catalog; it is an important account of the success of an intellectual enterprise of vast ramifications.—*Douglas W. Bryant, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Hubbard, William J. *Stack Management: A Practical Guide to Shelving and Maintaining a Collection*. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1981. 102p. \$7. LC 80-28468. ISBN 0-8389-0319-3.

Stack Management is a fine example of clear, concise writing and good organization, representing sound thinking and reasoned advice. It is an excellent guide for the new stack manager and a handy reference tool for the experienced librarian. In a quick consultation, one can discover that 86 percent full is considered maximum stack capacity, learn the advantages and disadvantages of several types of compact shelving, and determine how best to shelve kits and games.

Hubbard has revised an earlier work by W. H. Jesse called *Shelf Work in Libraries* (1952), and this new edition reflects and stresses the current concern with access and availability of collections. Other contemporary issues such as problems of security and the use of detection systems, online circulation systems, and the increasing need for remote storage facilities are addressed at appropriate points in the new text. There are two minor points which I would draw attention to regarding the revision, however: one is the occasional use of the term "shelf worker" instead of the more current "shelver" or even "stack attendant" or "stacker"; and the second is a lack of any mention of physical access for the handicapped user and how that affects stack aisles and stack placement.

The book is divided into eight chapters and proceeds logically from the broadest aspect, collection management (shelf arrangement, open or closed stacks, and shelving of different types of materials) through successive chapters on more specific topics. These

topics are sorting and shelving routines, moving and shifting books (everything from how to plan space requirements to how to shelve), shelving types and arrangements (including lighting, book trucks and signs), and weeding, storing, and paging, with particular emphasis on the desirability of storage collections and how to plan and select for them. Hubbard's good sense and directness are particularly evident in this comment on off-site storage facilities: "Regardless of the frequency of trips, the schedule must be maintained if the service is to retain its credibility with patrons. Nothing destroys confidence in a library faster than broken promises through fluctuating schedules" (p.67). The remaining chapters deal with how to handle, clean, and repair books, missing books (how to search and inventory them), and finally some practical words on supervising stack personnel.

There is an appendix of basic information on using sampling to collect statistics on the quantity of work performed, book availability, and collection characteristics. The book is indexed. A comprehensive bibliography at the end, however, or all chapter references grouped at the conclusion of the individual chapters would have been preferable to the scattered footnotes throughout. *Stack Management*, is definitely useful and a worthwhile investment.—*Jean W. Farrington, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.*

Dessauer, John P. *Book Publishing: What It Is, What It Does*. 2d ed. New York and London: Bowker, 1981. 230p. \$23.95 cloth; \$13.95 paper. LC 81-10065. ISBN 0-8352-1325-0 cloth; 0-8352-1326-9 paper.

John P. Dessauer's book is a superb exposition of the workings of the American book publishing industry. Dessauer describes in successive chapters how books are created, manufactured, marketed, stored, and delivered. He also goes into some detail on the financing, planning, and management of book publishing enterprises.

Dessauer presently serves as chief statistician for the Book Industry Study Group (formed in 1976 as a research organization for the publishing community), and this second edition incorporates much information from the group. Although the book has the same structure as the previous edition (e.g.,

same chapters in the same order), the work has been completely updated to 1980. Appropriately, the new edition is also much more handsome, with wider margins, clearer headings, and easier to read charts and diagrams.

In his overview of the history and organization of the book industry, the author takes up the questions which arise from mergers, unauthorized copying, and censorship. He also describes the various divisions of publishing and discusses its dual role as a business and a cultural activity. He writes that the greatest single challenge to American book publishing "... is simply to reach effectively the people willing and anxious to buy books." He also notes that the industry is beginning to overcome its inertia of the past, as factions are joining together to act as a publishing "community" in dealing with problems. In particular, Dessauer mentions participation of publishers in the Association of American Publishers (AAP), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the Book Industry Study Group. He cites inadequate distribution as a common difficulty which book publishers must overcome

through cooperation of publishers and education of wholesalers.

In his chapter on how books are created, Dessauer makes a strong case for reducing book production, and complains of "intuitive" decisions to publish without adequate financial planning. He adds that faulty editorial judgment, ineffectual marketing efforts, and a "buckshot" approach to publishing are also major contributing factors to the high failure rate among trade books.

Another serious problem that Dessauer explores is that of paperback overproduction: "In 1980 mass market publishers produced some 5,100 new releases, or an average of 423 titles monthly, according to *CPDA News*. Even some of the better outlets cannot accommodate even one fourth of such releases..." He indicates that approximately one half of all paperbacks shipped to wholesalers remain unsold.

In the manufacturing chapter, the author is critical of the lack of standardization in the industry, but closes on a note of optimism, indicating that the technology for books "on demand" is now available. In the marketing chapter, he points out the need for publishers

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to incorporate more automated procedures in distribution of their titles. In discussing how books are stored and delivered, Dessauer believes too many publishers are working independently and sees no effort on their part to consolidate operations. A system of regional, nonprofit distribution centers is suggested.

In the final chapter on financing, planning, and managing publishing companies, the author explains how operating statements and balance sheets work. He also shows how it is possible for a more expensive book to sell sufficient copies to make it more profitable than a moderately or inexpensively priced volume. He concludes: "More sales and larger printings are obviously not always the answer, nor are lower prices and more aggressive marketing. More important than such conventional techniques may be the accurate definition of market and the choice of the optimal means to reach it." Dessauer urges more broad based training programs for employees and endorses improving the quality of management in publishing. He supports both short- and long-range forecasting, arguing that testing the impact of future titles with alternative scenarios will help publishers become more responsive to the market.

The author is optimistic about the survival of the book and forecasts continuing growth of book consumers. Publishers still need to solve distribution problems, improve and increase marketing, and be more selective in publishing to avoid current "overproduction," he believes.

The revised edition of this book is the most current basic text on the economics of publishing available. It contains a twelve-page glossary of publishing terms and a short "Bibliographic Note" containing twelve citations (eleven in the previous edition) plus mention of three valuable trade publications.

Although I would like to see some improvements in the third edition, e.g., an expanded bibliography, some words on paper preservation, more discussion of noted publishers, and provision of examples from *Book Publishing: What It Is, What It Does* to illustrate his chapter on the manufacture of books, I strongly recommend that academic librarians, library school students, and students who wish to know more about publish-

ing purchase this title. Practicing librarians should be more familiar than they are with publishing, its practices and terminology. Dessauer's book fills this need.—Fred C. Lynden, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

ABSTRACTS

The following abstracts are based on those prepared by the ERIC Clearinghouse of Information Resources, School of Education, Syracuse University.

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Further information on ordering documents and on current postage charges may be obtained from a recent issue of Resources in Education.

Educational Information Resources in the United States. The State of the Art. By Fred S. Rosenau. Far West Lab. for Educational Research and Development, San Francisco, Calif. 1979. 20p. ED 206 278. MF—\$0.83; PC—\$1.82.

This review of educational information resources supported by the federal government, state and local taxes, and professional associations, provides a summary of the more active information centers along with the titles of some handbooks that can guide the user to additional resources. It also discusses who uses information and how, targeting of information to users, and the complexities of the dissemination process, concluding with some thoughts for future directions in information resource management for the educational community.

Information for the 1980's. Final Report of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, 1979. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, Washington, D.C. 1980. 802p. ED 206 280. MF—\$1.51; PC—\$54.32.

These proceedings of the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services contain resolutions which are the basis for the proposed National Library and Information Services Program and for new national legislation. The resolutions reflect; (1) the need to reshape library and