

ample, an old, family-run publishing house is swallowed up by a manufacturer of canned goods. Compaine speaks briefly to this point in the introduction and in his final summary, but this will not satisfy those who feel he should view with more alarm.

Who Owns the Media?, as a source of data on a variety of factors related to the ownership of the several media, remains a useful reference tool. What's more, it also provides, in its textual matter, an interesting introduction to each of the areas represented by one of its chapters. Those who want to explore further the questions of quality and social responsibility in the media will find this a basic source of information on which to build their own interpretations.—Lester Asheim, *University of North Carolina*.

The Nationwide Provision and Use of Information. Aslib Joint Conference Sept. 15-19, 1980. London: The Library Assn., 1981. 414p. ISBN 0-85365-563-4.

A perception of common concerns emerging within a technologically dynamic and unpredictable environment appears to have been a prime motivating force in convening the first tripartite conference of British library and information service organizations. In proposing a toast to the City and University of Sheffield, the hosts of the conference of Aslib, the Institute of Information Scientists, and the Library Association, Monty Hyams, president of the Institute of Information Scientists, stated: "This week we are discussing the nationwide provision and use of information, particularly in the light of the new technology, and especially the effect that this might have on automating and perhaps changing the whole character and life style of the traditionally stable profession of librarianship." Mr. Hyams went on to say that "in times of uncertainty about the future, it is customary for unity to prevail and so it was that this tripartite conference was conceived."

On a more positive note, W. L. Saunders, president of the Library Association, in his opening paper, "Information, the 'Unscarce' Resource," pointed out that the convening of this historic conference

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represented "a most significant recognition by all three organizations of a common concern with the vitally important theme "The national provision and use of information," and that an examination of the conference program would reveal "the essential and underlying unity of many of the concerns and preoccupations of Aslib, the Institute and the L.A."

As would have been the case had we sponsored here a miniature and representative conference of SLA, ASIS, and ALA, a number of presentations were made which dealt with a variety of subjects. The majority of the more than fifty papers published in the proceedings hover around the major conference theme and several subthemes which include "Information Provision," "User Needs, Wants and Demands," and "Changes and Constraints." Special interest groups, for example, the Public Libraries Research Group, also contributed papers or sponsored workshops of interest to their respective members. For the most part, the papers are of high quality and treat with lucidity, historical perspective, and depth the major concerns of the field. It is significant that no segment of the field was ignored or considered unimportant and that the role played, for example, by the school library, is accorded its proper and rightful recognition alongside the contribution of the online system.

The closing session of the conference featured a comprehensive and thought-provoking presentation by D. J. Foskett on the theme "Professionalism and the Future" and also one by Sir Montague Finiston, past president of Aslib, on the theme of "Information for a Dynamic Economy." An index to the proceedings, compiled by L. J. Taylor, allows access to the main and subordinate topics of the conference and undoubtedly enhances the value of the proceedings.

Fractionalization and disunity within our field have been major concerns of some of the leaders of our national and international library and information science organizations. Enormous expenditures of professional time and effort have been devoted in the past to divide rather than unify our field. Our British col-

leagues are to be congratulated for their clarity of vision, industry, and political expertise in setting an example for others to follow—Irvig M. Klemptner, *State University of New York at Albany*.

Priorities for Academic Libraries. Ed. by Thomas J. Galvin and Beverly P. Lynch. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1982. 106p. \$7.95 LC 81-48572. ISBN 0-87589-897-1.

This slender volume was designed to bridge the gap created by the "benign neglect" of academic administrations, the audience for whom the ten authors were asked to write.

While the contributions of Millicent Abell and Jacqueline Coolman on personnel, Patricia Battin on preservation, and Russell Shank on changes in user expectations are very good, there are weak chapters on collection development and resource sharing, and nothing on libraries within the academic organizational structure or on physical problems in old or large library systems. Further, the speculative chapter by the president of Clarkson College of Technology asserts that "libraries as such will not last as long as books" and "most college libraries at present are large study halls."

Would I buy and give this to my president to help education on the more complex library issues that we face? I have decided not to. The price is right. The text is clear. It reads easily, and was well assembled by the two editors. Yes, there is excellent advice from Ms. Battin, useful thoughts from Richard Talbot on financing, some good insights in the Abell-Coolman piece, yet I do not see that it is, overall, the set of messages that would help me work with my administration on tough library issues that we face together.

A unique contribution is made by William Moffett, the Azariah S. Root Director of Libraries at Oberlin College. Moffett's assignment was to state "what the academic librarian wants from administrators and faculty." I am not aware of a comparable statement anywhere else, certainly not in a concise eleven pages. While every academic librarian would have his or her own set of messages on such a topic, Moffett based his on "scores of thoughtful let-