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. Fosket on the theme "Professionalism and the Future" and also one by Sir Montague Finniston, 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 colleagues are to be congratulated for their clarity of vision, industry, and political expertise in setting an example for others to follow—Irving M. Klempner, State University of New York at Albany.


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-
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ters” from professional associates which produced a clear consensus—and it was "not in the first instance financial." Besides outstanding personal characteristics, the expectations were for a genuine understanding of the library’s missions in higher education, a clearer recognition of the librarian’s acceptance as a peer in the educational enterprise, and a reliable flow of communication and consultation.

As this volume asserts, and as Moffett quoted President W. Robert Parks of Iowa State University, the library’s needs “must become the shared concern of every scholar and every department on this campus, we must each of us make it our own individual business.” To this statement, Moffett and each library director in the country will say, amen.—David C. Weber, Stanford University.


Projecting future trends and developing strategies for solving perceived library and information science problems has been a major preoccupation of many a writer in our field. Frequently, however, such projections have been narrow in scope in the sense that they encompassed only specific technologies, dealt only with specific media, specific types of information services, specific institutions, or reflected the unique vantage points of single individuals. Moreover, the projections often lacked the essential interconnections or syntheses required for the integrated assessment of both the sociopolitical and technological factors affecting the future provision of information services.

Martha Boaz, research associate at the Center for the Study of the American Experience at the Annenberg School of Communications and former dean of the Graduate School of Library Science, University of Southern California, has done an admirable job in selecting and organizing a number of manuscripts which, in their totality, provide an excellent overview of the information problems that we may encounter in the not too distant future. Planning is suggested and solutions are offered which are available to us now and will be available to us in the decades ahead.

Fourteen manuscripts (two of which are reprints) emphasize major aspects of information technology, overall user needs, information economics, networking, legal, social, ethical, and regulatory issues. The contributed papers deal in depth with one or more aspects of such topics as telecommunications and value systems (R. Byrne, J. E. Ruchinksas), information and productivity (V. E. Giuliano), user needs and societal problems whose resolution require information services (B. Nanus, P. Gray, J. Naisbitt), library and information service networks, including political, legal, and regulatory factors (A. F. Trezza, R. Turn, H. L. Oler, R. Weingarten, P. Zurkowski), the role of the author in the information society (W. I. Boucher), and expected advances in computer, video, and communications technology (H. S. McDonald, M. Boaz). Through judicious selection and grouping of the contributions, by providing also an introductory review paper, biographical sketches of the authors, and by also providing a summary of conclusions and recommendations, the compiler has made the volume coherent and valuable.

In publishing this worthwhile contribution to the literature of the field of library and information science, it is regrettable that the publisher prints this legend on the verso of the title page: “No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.” Were we to adhere fully to this spurious admonition, our present and future information needs would hardly be met.—Irving M. Klempner, State University of New York at Albany.


In 1981 the ARL’s Office of Management