

status of serials treatment. Statements are frequently based on the present state of the economy, standards, database coverage or technology, and would be somewhat invalidated with a significant change in any of those conditions. However, such instances are well qualified with the critical, environmental definitions so that future readers will be able to examine them for validity.

The annotated bibliography contains over six hundred citations, and is arranged with subcategories that generally parallel chapter headings; that is, major serials treatment categories. The book was originally conceived as a text to facilitate the teaching of serials management in library schools. The annotated bibliography will provide students with a most effective guide to further study.—*Shere Connan, Stanford University Libraries.*

Wilson, Pauline. *Stereotype and Status: Librarians in the United States.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1982. 225p. \$27.50. LC 82-6119. ISBN 0-313-23516-3.

The purposes of this book are "to help librarians in deciding upon and implementing actions necessary to help overcome the unfavorable stereotype that has plagued the library profession throughout this century . . . to provide fuller understanding of the stereotype—its pervasiveness in the library profession, the multitude of ways in which it is manifested, and the many ways in which it affects librarians and their behavior." (Stereotyping is defined as "the general inclination to place a person in categories according to some easily and quickly identifiable characteristic, such as sex, ethnic membership . . . or occupation, and then to attribute to him qualities believed to be typical of members of that category.") Among the more important components of stereotypes are alleged personality and intellectual traits.

The hypothesis used by the author is: "Librarians handle their identity, as bestowed on them by the stereotype, in the manner of a minority group; their response is similar to that made by members of minority groups in response to minority status." (A minority group is "any group

of people who because of their physical or cultural characteristics, are singled out from others in the society . . . for differential and unequal treatment, and who therefore regard themselves as objects of collective discrimination."

The methodology used was adapted from a study of minority groups and consisted of a quantitative content analysis of journal articles, chapters in books, and news reports written about the stereotype of librarians by members of the library profession during the period 1921–April 1978. Sentences in the documents that were judged to be like a typical minority group response were counted and classified. Five categories of responses were analyzed: (1) acceptance of the stereotype—confirmation of negative view of librarians; (2) concern with in-group purification—stereotype is the result of only a few members of the group who should conform to majority behavior; (3) denial of differences—librarians are just like other people; (4) denial of group membership—dissociation of oneself from others in the profession; (5) for group action—to combat the unfavorable stereotype.

Of the 499 documents examined, 77 fit the study's specifications for inclusion. A coding of sentences based upon the classification of responses noted above reveal that: 24 percent were category 1 type responses, i.e., acceptance of stereotype; category 2—38 percent; category 3—24 percent; category 4—8 percent; category 5—6 percent. The author concludes from this that the evidence supports the hypothesis and that being a librarian "is a burden and is perceived as being a burden. Librarians do regard themselves as receiving differential treatment, and they do see themselves as being objects of collective discrimination."

This reviewer has major problems with the research design and conclusions of this study. No attempt was made to balance the negative findings in the study by identifying the favorable components of the librarian stereotype, or analyzing positive statements in the literature that contradict these responses. And so, of course, the evidence examined supports the hy-

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pothesis; since only minority type responses were analyzed, how could the conclusions be anything else?

In addition, even with this stacking of the deck, the quantity of documentation is low. If only 77 relevant publications have appeared in the last 57 years (an average of 1.35 articles per year), this would not appear to constitute a major preoccupation of the profession with a negative stereotype.

However, by the end of chapter 2 the author has set up this straw man, which she then attacks, primarily through a detailed analysis of librarians' scores on three standard personality tests, all of which show that, in general, librarians are normal, well adjusted, and happy.

Other topics touched upon in the book include factors involved in occupational choice, reasons for entering the profession, recruitment, and library education. These are all important topics for the profession, and one can find in this book a fascinating mixture of: (a) interesting comments regarding the differences in roles and working environments of different types of librarians, e.g., academic and school librarians have an "especially difficult time acquiring the status they desire . . . [because] the mission of the parent institution of these libraries is in the hands of another and dominant profession"; (b) fuzzy statements that are not explained, but that underlie important positions taken by the author ("Although the library profession is made up of different segments—library educators, public librarians, special librarians, (etc.) . . . —they make up a dynamic whole, a group, that shares a common fate because they are interdependent"); (c) statements that dismiss important research that could shed light on an issue ("It is doubtful that one can establish a relationship between tasks of a given occupation and specific personality traits required for members of that occupation"); (d) a very good bibliography which draws heavily on the literature of sociology and psychology; (e) excellent discussion of examples from the literature of how a negative mind-set regarding the profession seriously biases one's interpretation of research results;

and finally, (f) good, practical observations and advice—librarians are their own worst enemies. We should stop writing and speaking in self-destructive ways about our image and status, "acquire a better perspective on the stereotype and learn to take it in stride . . . improve it by not adding to it and by not disseminating it, and most important . . . control [our] response to it."

If the cost of the book were reduced by two-thirds, and in spite of its basis on a very poor research design, I would recommend the book for all librarians, since the subject has a perverse fascination for most of us, the credibility of the profession is important to all of us, and the author has shown courage and thoughtfulness in confronting controversial issues (especially library school accreditation), which the profession has not dealt with in a straightforward, intelligent, and constructive manner. However, given the critical deficiencies in the research design, the weaknesses in the analysis, along with the very high price of the book, this reviewer recommends: caveat emptor.—*Suzanne O. Frankie, Oakland University Libraries.*

Roberts, Matt and Etherington, Don.
Bookbinding and the Conservation of Books: A Dictionary of Descriptive Terminology. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1982. 296p. LC 81-607974.

The compilers of this dictionary claim that it is not an encyclopedia; it is "a guide to the vocabulary of a field, not a compendium on a specific subject." Nevertheless, this volume is loaded with encyclopedic information, and it fails as a dictionary because it does not provide lexical information about the vocabulary it contains. Like so many reference tools defying exact classification, it is a *vade mecum* falling somewhere between the two, i.e., an encyclopedic dictionary. It contains more than three thousand words and names, from formal usage, technical vocabularies, historical figures and methods, and informal trade jargon, all arranged alphabetically word by word (rather than by letter). It is a mine of information, surpassing old standards like John Carter's *ABC for Book Col-*