

consistency in substantive content is lacking to the point that it weakens the editors' intent. In many cases data are condensed to the point that little current or historical information is obtained by the reader in a consistent fashion, resulting in unbalanced overviews. For example, captions to the illustrations (p. 117) of two African libraries reflect out-of-date terminology. Rhodesia became Zimbabwe in 1980, and Haile Selassie University has not officially been known by that name since 1974.

Brief and concise area studies are a requirement for this work since one intention is to use them to develop and test the editors' analytical framework. Therefore, lengthy areas studies, for example, such as one finds in the *International Handbook of Contemporary Developments in Librarianship* (1981), would not be appropriate. What is needed in *World Librarianship* is more consistent, balanced, and substantive area studies edited to be less discursive in content. What is also needed in *World Librarianship* are up-to-date bibliographic citations. The weaknesses of the area studies are reflected in the notes to the text. There are just over 180 notes, a substantial number of which come from the same source, the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, which itself contains out-of-date material. References to current in-depth studies in the bibliography of the book itself are lacking as well. Of the approximately 160 entries, only about five date from 1978 to the present. Furthermore, current editions are not cited. For example, the 1976 edition of the *International Guide to Library, Archival, and Information Science Associations* is cited instead of the 1980 edition, and the 1970 edition of *A Handbook of Comparative Librarianship* is cited instead of the 1975 or 1983 editions.

Intended as a text, the methodological framework for analysis the editors have developed in *World Librarianship* will, in spite of the work's weaknesses, be of interest to students and teachers of comparative librarianship.—David L. Easterbrook, *University of Illinois at Chicago*.

**Serials Management in an Automated Age.** Proceedings of the First Annual

Serials Conference, October 30–31, 1981, Arlington, Va. Ed. by Nancy Jean Melin. Westport, Conn.: Meckler, 1982. 101p. \$35. LC 82-2302. ISBN 0-930466-48-9.

Although many of the papers in this slim volume are already becoming dated, it does contain a wealth of information for the serials manager attempting to deal with serials in a time of great change. Many of the articles contain excellent bibliographies and serve well, both as an introduction to the topic and as a starting point for further research. The papers are well chosen, and cover a diversity of topics: "The Journal of the Year 2000" (Thomas B. Hickey); "Playing by the Rules—AACR2 and Serials" (Ruth C. Carter), "Going Online with Serials" (Minna C. Saxe); "Order from Chaos? Standardizing Serials" (Gary Ink); Indexes and Abstracts—What Lies Ahead" (Robert E. Stobaugh, David W. Weisgerber, and Ronald L. Wigington); "Resource Sharing of Serials—Past, Present and Prospective: Old Wine in New Bottles or Substantial Change?" (C. James Schmidt); and "Automating the Serials Manager: New Directions, New Opportunities" (Nancy Jean Melin). The book also includes an introduction by Melin and a summary by Milo Nelson. The papers contain excellent analyses of the present state of the field and future predictions. Many of the presenters bring forth problems for consideration along with some suggested solutions.

Even though it is overpriced (\$35 for 101 pages), I recommend this book for purchase by anyone dealing with the collection or management of serials and for all libraries with a large library science collection.—James Mouw, *University of Illinois at Chicago*.

**Scientific Information Systems in Japan.** Ed. by Hiroshi Inose. Amsterdam: North-Holland, 1981. 257p. \$56. LC 81-1658. ISBN 0-444-86151-3.

This collection of thirty-four technical papers is intended for the serious scholar/student of database management systems in scientific research. The final report of a three-year project supported by Japan's Ministry of Education, Science, and Cul-