

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 For example, captions to the illustrations (p. 117) of two African libraries reflect out-of-date terminology.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number of which come from the same source, the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, which itself contains out-of-date material.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-

ture and conducted between 1976 and 1979, this volume deals with the formation process of information systems and the organization of scientific information. More than five hundred researchers in the academic and scientific community participated in studying the information system's implications and organizational approaches to a broad range of scientific disciplines. Their study focused on five research groups: input processing, structure recognition, storage and retrieval, systems approach, and research trend analysis. Developmental activities were carried out on database management systems, computer networks, and input-output system organization. The results are here published in English as a whole for the first time. Led by the internationally known cybernetics scholar, Toshio Kitagawa, professor emeritus at Kyushu University, twenty-nine research units tackled the five research categories as well as the developmental activities.

This is a welcome publication, although best suited for the technical collection of a large research library or special library. Not a general treatise, it reveals little of Japan's efforts to organize its isolated competitive efforts to link the scientific information community.

Despite the promise of this title, the major study in English on information systems in Japan today is contained in the introductory matter in Gibson and Kunkel, *Japanese Scientific and Technical Literature; a Subject Guide* (Greenwood, 1981). Data and commentary on national and international cooperation through the proposed Japan Center for Promoting Scientific Information will be of particular interest to academic librarians. The papers dealing with this topic include the group study on the planning of scientific information systems in Japan (Shimanouchi), the Report of the O-Committee on the development of scientific information systems in Japan (Tanaka), and the paper on the development of interuniversity computer networks in Japan (Inose). Typical of the subject coverage, the paper, "An Understanding System of Natural Language and Pictorial Pattern in the World of Weather Report," devotes four pages to the lin-

guistic and pictorial world of the isobar. One treatise details the use of handwriting action in construction of models for use in two-dimensional expressions of information, such as those used in figures, graphs, charts, and other handwritten characters, and is punctuated with illustrations (Hosaka and Kimura). In the paper on "Methodologies of Japanese Language Treatment by Computer for Information and Documentation Sciences," authors Nagao, Tsujii, and Matsuyama explore machine translation of document titles from English into Japanese, a Japanese text-editor capability, and a model for a natural language question-answer system.

One revealing conclusion: "International exchange of documentation information requires the [sic] language translation, and it is to be by machine because the information amount to be translated is too huge to be done by human translators." Written in technical, often halting, English, this book provides ample evidence that the need is indeed urgent for high-quality natural translations from one language to another. References to articles cited are not always clear as to the language of the full text. The work has no index, and suffers further from a photo-reduced, single-spaced typewritten manuscript for most of its contents.—*Theodore F. Welch, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois.*

Conservation in the Library: A Handbook of Use and Care of Traditional and Non-traditional Materials. Ed. by Susan Garretson Swartzburg. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1983. 245p. \$35. LC 82-15582. ISBN 0-313-23267-9.

When William Blades' *The Enemies of Books* (London: Trübner) appeared in 1880, the enemies were identified as dirt, climate, air pollution, fungi, and people. Librarians are all too aware that these enemies not only continue to threaten the printed collections described by Blades but also pose serious problems for the nonprint components of this decade's library collections, including photographs, microforms, slides, films, sound recordings, videotapes, videodiscs, and com-