

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-

puters. The problem is further complicated by diminished library budgets as well as cost increases for books and library materials. Indeed, the latter factors may be the most persuasive in convincing librarians that conservation is the responsibility of every librarian, including the library administrator, and not just that of the archivist, curator, or special collections librarian.

For those librarians who want to take an active conservation role in the care and maintenance of their collections, *Conservation in the Library: A Handbook of Use and Care of Traditional and Nontraditional Materials* will be a valuable tool. The editor and contributors are recognized preservation specialists, and most of them are also practicing librarians. Each devotes a chapter to a specific medium: paper, books and bindings, photographs, slides, microforms, motion picture film, and sound recordings. Chapters on newer nonprint media—videotape, videodiscs, and computers—are also included. Each chap-

ter follows the same format: inclusion of a brief history of the medium, a definition of its characteristics, and an outline of the requirements for its ideal care and preservation followed by a short, annotated bibliography of suggested readings. The chapters are aptly, though not lavishly, illustrated, and, when appropriate, they include sample guidelines for the selection of equipment and the handling of materials as well as descriptions of simple conservation techniques. A list of suppliers and supplies, in addition to sources of organizational advice and assistance, are welcome additions to the text.

The topic of conservation, like the problem itself, can easily overwhelm anyone trying to learn more about it. Swartzburg and the contributors present a broad range of information, much of it highly specialized, and they do so simply and clearly. Each author takes care to distinguish between those practical conservation measures the librarian can practice and the point at which the professional conservator or specialist ought to be consulted. This is a carefully edited book; the chapters tend to build on one another with little duplication of information.

*Conservation in the Library* will be valuable to a variety of readers, including the librarian who wants a single compendium of practical and up-to-date information on the care and handling of materials found in the modern library, an overview of current conservation problems and practices, a reference to suppliers and organizations offering assistance, and additional bibliographic sources. While the book's purpose is to present practical preservation information on conventional materials as well as nonprint media (which it does), each author raises questions, either implicitly or explicitly, about the future preservation needs of libraries and the role to be played by librarians in determining how these needs will be met. Any individual concerned about the future of libraries can read this book with profit.—Gretchen Lagana, University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Morehead, Joe.** *Introduction to United States Public Documents.* 3rd ed. Little-

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