

there is a great deal to be learned about documents cataloging in this book. The user will also find information on diverse topics not readily available in one source, such as a definition of "star prints," information about SUDOC and NTIS numbers, and how to compute scale on maps.

Cataloging Government Documents must be approached with caution as a cataloging aid. The user should be aware that LC rule interpretations are sometimes edited, and that the examples given are often not from AACR2 or CSB. Closer proofreading of examples and text would be desirable, as typographical errors always loom large in a cataloging work such as this. No errata sheet is currently available. Documents departments that do full AACR2 cataloging will certainly want to take advantage of the GODORT committee's experience and efforts but, given the shortcomings mentioned above and a price of \$50, general academic cataloging departments are unlikely to make this book a priority for their collections.—Gunnar Knutson, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Advances in Librarianship. V. 13. Ed. by Wesley Simonton. New York: Academic, 1984. 284p. \$32. LC 79-88675. ISBN 0-12-024613-9.

In a review written some years ago of volume 8 of the same title, I made the claim that *Advances in Librarianship* is one of the few places in library literature where one finds literate, comprehensive, and brief overviews of advances in the field. This statement still appears to be true.

The latest volume of *Advances* covers a very wide range of topics, from management information to information systems and library automation in Latin America to collection development and management. There is something in the eight sections of this short volume for librarians of most tastes, persuasions, and interests.

Those of us who struggle with a sometimes overwhelming amount of information will appreciate the systematic approach suggested by Charles R. McClure. He presents a good overview of how various forms of organizational information

processing, e.g., MIS and DSS, might be applicable to libraries. In so doing, he also presents a good review of the literature that has appeared since 1975.

Nancy Williamson raises and discusses many of the issues involved with information storage and retrieval but especially that of subject access to online systems. One of the main issues at present appears to be whether online access should be constructed from the top down or from the bottom up. Williamson claims that the needs of the future need to be more completely assessed and that more research is necessary.

Public libraries have often been at the forefront of library innovation. John Durance discusses one of these innovations, community information services, specifically the provision of local information, information and referral, and public policy information. In an era when community information services could be flourishing, poor communication seems to have re-



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sulted in many libraries not adapting such services.

Two articles discuss developments in international librarianship. In the first, Robert Vosper traces the growth, in the recent past, of library associations, both national and international, much of it due to IFLA. This growth has seen a corresponding increase in programs: universal bibliographic control, national bibliographics, and universal availability of publications, to name a few.

The second article by Marietta Shepard argues that "Notable advances have been made in the last decade in Latin America in the development of library and information services" (p.152). Computers share much of the responsibility for these advances along with other factors such as developmental programs of UNESCO and OAS, greater communication among educators of the region, demand for greater information by scientists and industrialists, and better-trained librarians and information specialists. Among the advances are national library and information systems and subsystems, regional information systems, and the employment of a whole host of library practices including authority control, automated cataloging, and the like.

The assertion made several years ago that "collection development is one of the most discussed and still least well-known areas within librarianship" (p.196) may still be true, though papers like the next three go a long way toward making it less so.

Marcia Pankake argues that book selection has changed substantially since the late nineteenth century and has become part of a larger and more complex system—collection development. The early days of selection were characterized by certainty and confidence in the value of the book, in the principles of selection, and in directing readers to suitable materials. While the certainty and confidence are gone—it might be more accurate to say that they are inappropriate—they have been replaced by a "spirit of inquiry and a need to seek objective evidence" (p.206). Selection is now subsumed under collection development along with evaluation,

management, budgeting, and a number of other intellectual processes; collection development is best characterized by planning, control, and system.

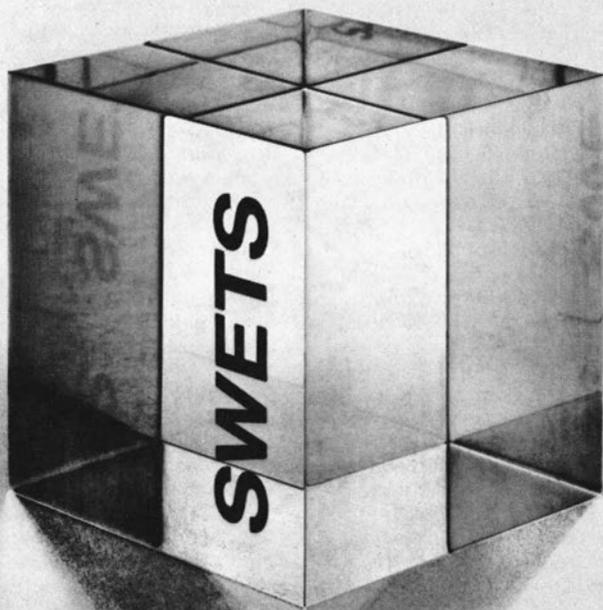
Evaluation is often an important first step and certainly a powerful tool in collection development. Mosher's paper "represents a selective treatment of recent trends in research, methodology, and practice relating to collection evaluation" (p.212). Beginning with a brief historical overview of the literature prior to 1970, Mosher moves on to more recent studies. The evaluation methodologies described include classification—curriculum relationship, analysis of subject literatures, statistical compilation, analysis by collection characteristics, citation studies, overlap studies, and use studies. It is pointed out that care must be shown in the application of research results to real library situations and that more than one type of study should be employed to insure confidence in conclusions. Finally, Mosher raises some issues requiring further study, e.g., the difference between felt and unmet needs.

The final paper by C. D. Hurt is an examination of the two major methods employed to identify the important literature of science, the qualitative (historical) and the quantitative (bibliometric). The historical approach stresses only those scientific events that are successful and suggests that science is both rational and linear. Bibliometrics, the application of mathematical methods to media, on the other hand, suggests that scientific progress is nonlinear and not entirely rational. Though Hurt focuses primarily upon the bibliometric approach, especially citation analysis, he points out that both methods have their respective strengths and weaknesses and that a combination of the two might be helpful.

Like the previous volumes of *Advances in Librarianship*, this volume presents papers high in the quality of scholarship and writing. It is simply the best source of overviews of what is going on in the field. As such, it would be an excellent buy for any library staffed by librarians who wish to keep abreast of advances.—William E. Hannaford, Jr., *Castleton State College*.

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