

own favorite papers on the subject, "Is the Literature Worth Retrieving?" by S. A. Goudsmit (*Physics Today* 19:52-55 [Sept. 1966]) and "Is the Literature Worth Retrieving?" by L. M. Branscomb (*Scientific Research* 3:49-56 [May 27, 1968]), her discussion is no less illuminating for these omissions. Next she presents information on major data compilations and sources of data, with detailed discussions of the National Bureau of Standards and its National Standard Reference Data System, and briefer sections on other national and international programs. Sources of information on handbooks and data compilations, including online access to data, are also covered. In such a rapidly changing area it is to be expected that some recent developments are not included. Thus there is no mention of the online *Superindex*; and in discussing the problem of the lack of standardization in query languages for online systems, she suggests that a possible solution would be for commercial vendors to create interface software that would translate commands of the end user into appropriate commands for a particular file, but she does not mention that such software is already on the market (e.g., *Sci Mate*).

The second part, nearly half of this rather slim book, is taken up by information about National Bureau of Standards data compilation series and with descriptions of selected compilations in these series. In addition, having convincingly made the point in the first half of her book that NBS data series are not adequately indexed, Army concludes this second part with her own index to selected NBS data compilations. Since the NBS is such a significant producer of critically evaluated data compilations, there is some justification for this section, but of course it is not and does not pretend to be a comprehensive guide to physical and chemical data. Moreover, it is evident that such indexes quickly become dated. For example, the indexes refer to *Technical Note 270* for certain thermochemical data, rather than to Supplement 2 to volume 11 of the *Journal of Physical and Chemical Reference Data*, which supersedes the various parts of this *Technical Note*. (In fairness, the description

of TN270 does mention this Supplement, in a note probably added late in the proof stage.) Despite this limitation the index should prove useful.

This book would be useful as supplementary reading for a course on scientific reference sources, although the lack of an index to the text detracts from this purpose. More significantly, I think that any practicing science reference librarian could profit from reading the book and from consulting its NBS index in dealing with reference questions.—*Robert Michaelson, Northwestern University Library, Evanston, Illinois.*

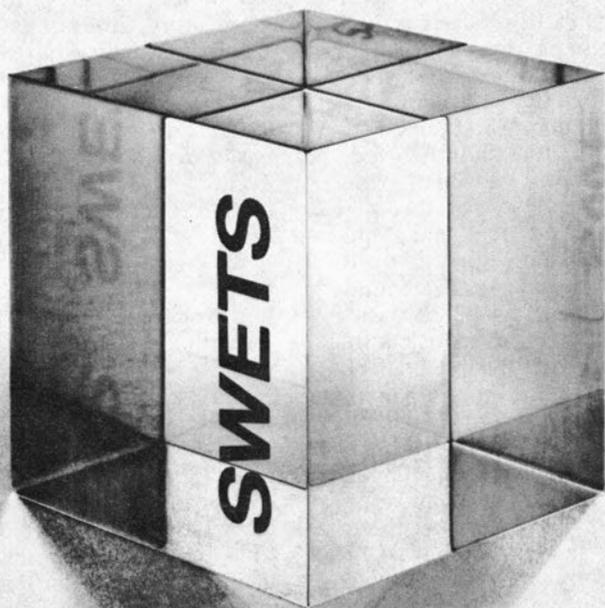
**New Options for Librarians: Finding a Job in a Related Field.** Ed. by Betty-Carol Sellen and Dimity S. Berkner. New York: Neal-Schuman, 1984. 300p. \$19.95. LC 83-22143. ISBN 0-918212-73-1.

This collection of pieces by librarians who are in careers outside of the traditional library organization provides exciting and important viewpoints on the options as well as requirements for success in these alternative careers. The book is divided into two sections: Part 1—"Changing Career Directions," and Part 2—"Some Career Options." There are a total of eighteen pieces, and the editors, Sellen and Berkner, have done a fine job of pulling these diverse pieces together into a well-organized and cohesive presentation.

Part 1 offers pieces that cover strategies for assessing career options, evaluating strengths, and marketing skills. The ideas and suggestions contained in these pieces represent the most direct and honest guidance about what it takes to be successful in gaining entry and then surviving in the not-for-profit sector that this reviewer has seen in the library field. The authors present a no-nonsense picture of realities of the not-for-profit world and discuss in specific terms the commitment, energy, and time that it takes to be successful. Anyone reading these pieces will go away wiser about the general expectations in alternative careers but also with specific ideas and suggestions on how to approach planning a career change. Librarians who want sound suggestions on job hunting

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and interviewing for any library position would also benefit from reading the pieces in Part 1.

Part 2 offers views from librarians who have developed careers in diverse organizational environments and includes pieces on contract service companies, information brokers, bibliographic cooperatives, sales and marketing, publishing, and public relations among others. The pieces are well written and well organized. The authors have not overglamorized their careers but have provided information in a direct and honest manner about the requirements and talents needed and the long hours and commitment expected in order to be successful. The librarians who have contributed these pieces are professionals with solid experience in the fields that they have written about and they also provide a sense of the excitement and challenge that exists in their careers for the librarian willing to invest time, energy, effort, and ideas. The careers are not for the "fainthearted" though, nor are they for anyone looking for a comfortable or slow-paced career. The book—through the frank and stimulating pieces—does more than just provide information. It removes the boundaries or walls that too many perceive exist for librarians and invites us to look at the numerous opportunities that are available or that can be created for those with initiative, drive, and ambition. The book should be "must reading" for library school faculty so that they are better able to advise graduate students about career options and also how to market themselves. Graduate students should be encouraged, indeed urged, to read this book to benefit from the experiences of these professionals in alternative careers. And, for librarians already in the field but feeling restless and ready for a change, *New Options for Librarians* should provide stimulation in thinking about alternatives and opportunities.—Sheila Creth, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

*New Technology and Documents Librarianship: Proceedings of the Third Annual Library Government Documents and Information Conference.* Ed. by Peter

Heron. Westport, Conn.: Meckler, 1983. 107p. \$35. LC 83-896. ISBN 0-930466-64-0.

This collection of six articles is based on presentations given in October 1982 at a conference whose purpose was to examine current and future applications of new technology in the field of documents librarianship. The applications discussed include document format, processing, access, and delivery. Specific examples of each treated in this volume are distribution of material in microform, computer automation, database searching, and videotext and teletext transmission.

Chapters 1 and 5 describe trends in documents librarianship and suggest possible approaches for the future. "Exploiting Technology for Government Document Depository Collections: Overview and Strategies," by Charles McClure, describes technologies that are now available and can be applied in documents work. These range from OCLC to computer-based decision support systems. "New Technology and State Government Information Sources," by Terry Weech, argues that as state agencies rely more on databases created in-house, the public loses access to government information. Creation of a new profession, "government information specialist," is proposed as a possible solution.

The remaining four articles focus on specific applications. "The Effects of Technology on Access to Federal Government Information," by Judy Myers, describes problems created by the increasing movement of the U.S. Government away from information in print format. Of particular interest is her description of the Government Printing Office's change to machine-readable cataloging and the impact it has had on access to federal information. This chapter is must reading for anyone considering the use of GPO tapes. "Attitudes, Resources, and Applications: The Government Documents Librarian and Computer Technology," by Bruce Morton, exhorts documents librarians to begin to employ the tool of computer automation in their work. In "Online Retrieval of Government Documents Using Teletext and Videotext Services," by Susanna