

Generally, festschrifts in librarianship are interesting conglomerations of papers by acquaintances of the person being honored, gathered over time by an editor, most often useful tutorials in the authors' fields, and not altogether intellectually stimulating. One can usually count on them for state-of-the-art presentations in a broad field.

This one is different. It is actually the proceedings of a festschrift ceremony held at Colorado State University, where Anderson was director of libraries from 1957 until his recent retirement. The speakers were few: those well associated with research librarianship, as well as colleagues in various relationships with Anderson. The ceremony was relatively brief, hence the proceedings can be read quite quickly. And there was a theme, so there is coherence among the papers, some of which are expository, some of which are analytical. All present the personal views of the authors.

Shirley Echleman's brief opening paper sets forth a statement of some rather broad questions that face the research library community as it moves from the traditional to the new information age. A review of the proceedings of the Association of Research Libraries for the past few years will extend her analysis but will leave the basic questions open for development. Forrest Carhart, retired executive director of the New York Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency, now a resident of Colorado, reports in some detail how the New York State Three-Rs program developed into a successful array of cooperative activities among New York City's hundreds of large and small research libraries. The presentation is suggestive, but not analytical.

The remainder of the volume consists of five papers from people now or until recently associated directly with the operations of research libraries and contains the few brief, but cogent, analyses and commentaries. Ralph Ellsworth clearly makes the case for the modular library building as the only way to accommodate the kinds of changes that research libraries might have to make to match demands of the new information age. Richard Dougherty

faces the inevitability of the substitution of electronic and other forms of access to library collections and their contents for open-shelf browsing and advises us to begin now to help scholars to adapt. David Stam quickly analyzes the collection development and preservation problems of research libraries and describes in general the workings of the Research Libraries Group's cooperative programs in these areas. His apt view that access to information about collection goals, collecting strengths, and items selected for preservation is one of the keys to the potential success of such cooperation adds strength to the arguments for new methods of access of others in this volume.

Richard McCoy's personal views of research library problems in providing access to information in and about library collections are based on his years as president of the Research Libraries Group. He makes a most clear analysis of the similarities and differences among various network activities (e.g., OCLC and RLG) and argues well for interaction, integration, and reduction of conflict among them on behalf of the scholarly user. Finally, G. Edward Evans of the Harvard University Library staff and formerly a faculty member at both UCLA and the University of Denver, speculates on the nature of the research library in the year 2010, giving us three scenarios of potential development and analyzing information access and management problems in each case.

All in all, this is a most enjoyable, though brief volume. Most of those in management positions of research libraries have already thought about one or another of the issues, and much has been written about them. It is useful, nevertheless, to pause briefly to read these words of a few of our major agents for change in research librarianship.—*Russell Shank, University Libraries, University of California, Los Angeles.*

**Schauer, Bruce P.** *The Economics of Managing Library Service.* Chicago: American Library Assn., 1986. 278p. \$49 (ISBN 0-8389-0453-X). LC 86-14186.

Detailed, academic approaches to library budgets and economics are being

# THE RESOURCE AUTHORITIES.

"Television has proven to be the primary source of news for most people. For the first time, this wealth of information can be easily and systematically accessed with our printed indexes and transcripts on microfiche."

—Duane Bogenschneider  
Vice President, Editorial and  
Development, Research  
Publications.



## Invite the entire ABC News Team into your library.

As dramatic as television news coverage itself, every spoken line of current and past ABC News from selected programs is converted to microfiche and ready for your library patrons. An ideal reference for students and the general public who seek out today's important news events. From Ted Koppel's Nightline® to 20/20 . . . from Peter Jennings' World News Tonight® to ABC Specials—eleven programs in all, with transcripts from 1969 to present. A current-year subscription to the printed, comprehensive quarterly ABC News Index, cumulated annually, enables users to pinpoint the precise information they need. A cumulated backfile index also is available.

This may well become one of the most popular methods of researching current affairs ever offered in the history of library science.

For further information, utilize the form below. Or call 1-800-REACH-RP (1-800-732-2477) to place your order now. From Connecticut, Alaska and Canada, call collect 203-397-2600.

Please send me information on the products and services checked:

Other Television News Transcripts and Indexes  
 International Newspapers on Microfilm  
 Newspaper Indexes  
 Journals in Microform  
 Research Collections in Microform  
 U.S. and International Patent Documentation  
 Patent Search and Awareness Services  
 Reference Books

## rp infofile #12

research publications®

12 Lunar Drive/Drawer AB  
Woodbridge, CT 06525  
Toll-free: 1-800-REACH-RP  
TWX: 710-465-6345  
FAX: 203-397-3893

- Please send me your brochure.  
 Have a representative call me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

For further information, or to place your order directly, call 1-800-REACH-RP (1-800-732-2477).

# 1-800-REACH-RP

presented more and more in the literature. Plans for analyzing library services and other activities through economic models are suggested to replace the more typical and straightforward approach to budgeting that many librarians follow, i.e., using the collective judgment of library administrators to construct a budget request based on perceived needs and demands. These judgments have been based on observation and supplemented by routine statistics of size or number of transactions.

This volume takes a different approach. It looks at the "economics" of library service, applying hard quantitative analysis to most aspects of library financial management. The science of economics is brought to bear on decision making for libraries. The first half of the volume discusses microeconomic theory as it relates to areas of library management. The flavor of the text is economic, not bibliographic. Chapters on consumer preference, market demand, library production, and equilibrium analysis present areas for library management through microeconomic models. The second portion of the book provides further analysis of library decision making through actual examples—collection adequacy, waiting-line time at a service desk, and correlation between circulation rates and inventory.

This is definitely not casual or easy reading for most librarians. Selected sections include properties of isoquants, indifference curves, rules of probability, and production with multiple variant inputs. Concepts are expressed in the language of the economist, with formulas and graphs. While librarians know well that books should not be judged by their covers or by the look of their texts, this volume has the appearance of one that most humanists would avoid after leafing through for only a moment.

A more relevant consideration, however, is the value of the text in library decision making. It may be compared with Stephen Roberts' *Cost Management for Library and Information Services* (C&RL 47:520-22 [Sept. 1986]), which also presents a formal, quantitative approach to resource allocation. Those librarians and managers comfortable enough with

economic theory to utilize its quantitative approach as an aid to decision making may find value in this material. How one balances the numbers approach to equally valid library concerns of professionalism, politics, and other unquantifiable factors is critical. One must assume, however, that to implement the approach presented here is beyond the training or experience of most librarians. As in the Roberts book, the basic methods for obtaining the information to aid in the decision-making process may not be possible for most library situations and existing staff. The volume presupposes at least some familiarity with the concepts and mathematics of economic theory; better yet, an academic background in this area would be of great assistance. Beyond the ability to set up and collect the economic information discussed here (which would involve considerable effort), the library administrator must have the ability to integrate the information gathered into overall planning.

A system of information gathering that demonstrates the cost of alternatives to administrators is probably as good aid in decision making. What must be considered, however, is the amount of effort required to gather the information in relation to its usefulness. Such decisions can only be made on a case-by-case basis. The economic analysis of library operations presented here may be useful in some situations, but the method for obtaining the information is probably inaccessible to most library administrators.—John Vasi, *Library, University of California, Santa Barbara*.

*American Books Abroad: Toward a National Policy*. Ed. by William M. Childs and Donald E. McNeil. Washington, D.C.: The Helen Dwight Reid Educational Foundation, 1986. 309p. \$35 (ISBN 0-916882-05-5). LC 85-17540.

The foreword by Jeane J. Kirkpatrick boldly sets the ideological and political framework for the reader: books are tools both of democracy and development; freedom of thought requires that ideas be communicated; the Soviet Union is far ahead of the United States in disseminating its own books abroad. In the introduc-