

the academic library from 1638 to 1945 and concludes that academic libraries expanded in those institutions in which there was strong presidential leadership and support. Although this fact has been acknowledged by library historians and other observers, they, however, also chronicle the contributions of the great librarians appointed by these presidents and comment on the importance of professional education to the quality of the staff who have worked in these libraries. Chapter two traces the history of the university and the academic library from 1945 to the present. In this chapter, Atkins outlines the emergence of technology in library operations and expresses concern over the future of automation in the library. He believes that librarians will be required to convince the person in charge of campus computing, as well as the budget people and others, of the library's needs. As in the first chapter, Atkins does little to chronicle the influence of individual librarians on the development of their operations.

Chapter three considers the budget issues and outlines approaches to budgeting used on various campuses. The discussion is not very illuminating. Atkins observes that the library must follow institutional directives regarding the budget and goes on to write, "The semiautonomous position of the academic library within the institution still allows the library administration considerable freedom to consider alternatives after the original allocation decision is made." This observation is not developed, so the reader must speculate as to the prevalence and impact of this autonomy.

In chapter four, "The University Administration and the Academic Library," Atkins tries to understand the structure of the university in the context of organizational theory. He assumes, regrettably, that there is one best way to organize and misses the point that it is good management practice to allow units within the university to organize in ways that best suit them. Instead he observes that libraries subscribe to a bureaucratic model or a political model, while in his view, a collegial model is most appropriate. A greater understanding of how or-

ganizations behave would have helped the author refine some of these opinions.

Chapter five, "The Teaching Faculty and the Academic Library," and chapter six, "Academic Librarians and the University," continue the author's effort to bolster the argument that faculty status for librarians is essential for the continuing success of the library in American higher education. One of the main points of this book is that librarians, not just the directors of libraries, must work to improve and to elevate the profession. Few would disagree with that statement. Many, however, would disagree with the means proposed by Atkins, that is, full faculty status for librarians. This book exhorts; it does not convince or offer evidence.

The present environments and political realities on most college and university campuses are turbulent, complex, and filled with competition and conflict. Coalitions are formed, used, abandoned, and reshaped routinely. There are many players in this environment. The successful librarians will be those who can assess the environments, help form and shape the coalitions, and know how to operate within them. Ladd suggested that in 1974. Successful librarians have operated that way for years and have improved and enhanced the profession while doing so. Atkins has missed those successes and the reasons for them.—*Beverly P. Lynch, University of California, Los Angeles.*

Hagler, Ronald. *The Bibliographic Record and Information Technology*. 2d. ed. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1991. 331p. \$37 (ISBN 0-8389-0554-4). LC 90-45317.

In the preface to this second edition of *The Bibliographic Record*, Ronald Hagler states that this is not a how-to book, but a "why" book. While he does not hesitate to explain the specifics of bibliographic records, his overall emphasis is on the bibliographic principles that have shaped the details of cataloging practice. Hagler has attempted a systematic arrangement of concepts that are "the common currency of people professionally concerned with the many aspects of bibliographic

control." Because the book does not focus on the production of bibliographic records, it is addressed to all who compile and use bibliographic information, not just prospective or practicing catalogers. Hagler's care in defining terms, providing historical context for current practices, and pointing out the connections between theory and practice result in a work accessible to the nonspecialist or novice, useful to a library administrator responsible for planning for the future management of bibliographic files, and helpful to a library school student interested in putting into perspective the enormous detail of the bibliographic record, especially in machine-readable form. As Hagler reviews bibliographic control in twentieth-century practice, certain themes recur. Most obvious is the impact of computer technology as a force in changing attitudes as well as specific practices. Hagler shows how both have been shaped by the constraints and possibilities of available technology. Standardization, always necessary for the identification and retrieval of bibliographic records, has gained new importance in the computer era.

In part 1, "Principles of Bibliographic Control," Hagler considers the bibliographic record in its widest possible context, including abstracting and indexing publications as well as the library catalog. In both practice and theory, the bibliographic record is becoming more uniform across types of tools and agencies (libraries, archives, galleries, museums). The entry for a book in a library catalog used to be considered only marginally related to the listing of a journal article in an abstracting and indexing publication because the two were created in administratively separate environments and in different physical media. The growing practice of merging, abstracting, and indexing databases with local library catalogs, however, makes the need to standardize formats between libraries and abstracting and indexing services more urgent.

As libraries make transitions from manual to automated processes, the terminology used by practitioners changes, but gradually. Hagler recognizes that students



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learning new concepts in library school may become confused when encountering old and new terms in the literature. He explains that the computer revolution has changed the nature of many parts of bibliographic control and made new terminology desirable. Generic terms are replacing those whose primary meanings are related to books and to print. Hagler explains such old/new terms as entry/record, heading/access point, and collation/physical description, putting the definition of the old terms into historical perspective and showing why they are now too restrictive.

Part 2 of the book, "Library Standards," includes clear explanations of such concepts as name authority work, controlled subject vocabularies, uniform titles, and superimposition. Hagler stresses the importance of standardization for adequate identification of a document and consistency of description to avoid unnecessary ambiguity. In the past, a library created its own rules of practice independently. Common standards and practices are now widely followed by libraries in creating and communicating their catalog records. With common rules, institutions can contribute records to a useful union catalog, use each others' records interchangeably, and acquire records produced from a central source. Compatibility is needed, not necessarily uniformity. A library obtaining some of its records externally naturally adjusts its internal cataloging practices to conform. Idiosyncratic variants tend to disappear.

Rapid changes in the nature of bibliographic control led the author to begin this revision of the 1982 edition in 1985. Future changes will probably lead to subsequent editions. The present edition quite adequately describes what the bibliographic record is today and how it came to be that way.—*Elaine A. Franco, University of California, Davis.*

Avrin, Leila. *Scribes, Script, and Books: The Book Arts from Antiquity to the Renaissance.* Chicago: American Library Assn.; London: British Library, 1991. 356p. \$60 (ISBN 0-7123-0245-X). LC 89-18024.

Readers interested in the history of books before the advent of printing previously either had to be content with brief preliminary surveys found in histories of the printed book or had to work through numerous specialized publications. *Scribes, Script, and Books* is an attempt to remedy this situation. While it primarily focuses on manuscripts and books, it touches on such areas as epigraphy and numismatics as well. Some general historical and literary background material is included also to set the development of writing and books in context.

Avrin sets the stage with a brief introductory overview. She then treats in detail the early history of writing and the development of the alphabet. Individual chapters are devoted to books and to writing among each of the major ancient civilizations: Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Hebrew, Greek, and Roman. The discussion of Roman books leads directly into a survey of Latin scripts from early Roman inscriptions to modern calligraphy. Avrin next deals with medieval manuscripts and illumination. Islamic books are discussed separately. Chapters on papermaking, bookbinding, and block printing round out the work.

The chapters on Hebrew and Islamic books are particularly useful, since these topics have seldom been treated in any detail for the nonspecialist. Avrin's discussion of Hebrew manuscripts is comprehensive and extends from ancient and medieval scribes and manuscripts to the modern preparation of Torah scrolls and other texts for religious use. Her coverage of Islamic book arts draws attention to the many influences that these have had on Western bookmaking. In addition to preserving and later restoring to the West many classical Greek scientific and philosophical works, the Islamic world introduced to Europe the Chinese inventions of paper and marbled paper. Islamic binders also heavily influenced the techniques and materials used by Western bookbinders.

Avrin stresses the essentially conservative nature of bookmaking throughout her work. Innovations occur in materials and technique and are duly noted, but