(such as file and record organization, the reference interview, and information systems databases) with the scientific study of information retrieval models drawn from other contexts.—Matthew Wall, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

SHORT NOTICES


A recent exhibition of manuscripts and early printed books from the collections of the Italian state libraries ("the places of written memory" alluded to in the title) documents their role in creating and preserving a cultural heritage. In three sections, each supported by explanatory essays, the catalog focuses on the works of early monastic libraries ("I Libri del Silenzio"); the collections of manuscripts and printed volumes of the great Renaissance libraries, such as the Medicea Laurenziana of Florence and Modena’s Estense ("I Libri del Decoro"); and treasures from the libraries of Italy’s cardinals ("I Libri del Porporo"). Lengthy entries for each manuscript or book exhibited give its provenance, historical significance, and place within a particular collection. Bibliographic notes lead the reader to secondary sources. A helpful index of the manuscripts in the exhibition, arranged by current library location and collection, gives some sense of the riches of each of the major state libraries represented here. The catalog is well designed and beautifully illustrated. (JB)


This booklet, the sixth in the "Collection Management and Development Guides" series, is based on Paul Mosher and Marcia Pankake’s guidelines published in the October/December 1983 issue of Library Resources and Technical Services. In outline format and very sparse prose it sketches the basics of cooperation: the benefits, the "challenges," (the kinder, gentler ’90s term for the "problems" of the 1983 edition), types of cooperatives, varieties of cooperative activities, planning and implementing the agreement, assessing and strengthening resources, and providing bibliographic and physical access. A directory of cooperatives, a glossary, and an extensive bibliography complete this carefully prepared publication. (SL)


Specialized journals of this kind are all but irresistible to their particular target markets, which is not to say that the need isn’t real enough. This new journal was conceived to redress the perceived marginalization of college libraries and their concerns in the professional literature. It emphasizes the practical and day-to-day, with a corresponding de-emphasis on what we call "research" and "theory." Articles in the first issue cover topics such as “holistic” librarianship, summers off, citation analysis of freshman papers, a bar-coding project, textbooks in the collection, food in the library, library-skill workbooks (plus ça change . . .), accessing the Internet. Some, but not all of these offer a uniquely “college” perspective, but much of it, at least in this first issue, is depressingly familiar. (SL)

Contributed by Jane G. Bryan and Stephen Lehmann.