

## Book Reviews

*Emerging Communities: Integrating Networked Information into Library Services.* Ed. Ann P. Bishop. Urbana-Champaign, Ill.: Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1994. alk. paper, 304p. \$30 (ISBN 0-87845-094-7).

This volume of twenty-six presentations from the 30th Annual Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing addresses the full range of issues raised by the emerging networked information environment. Researchers and practitioners who have assimilated the basic knowledge and issues of library automation and networked information, but who have not yet achieved the nirvana of an expert, will find herein a resource of great value. Beginners should avoid this compilation, as it is not a primer.

A number of emerging experts in this new field are represented—Clifford Lynch, James P. Love, Hope N. Tillman, Sharyn Ladner, and Diane Kovacs all contribute variations on the themes of harnessing the technology, utilizing the resources, and understanding the issues of the networked environment in libraries.

*Emerging Communities* may appear disjointed to some because it presents a diffuse array of essays and studies. The narrative analyses of Lynch and Love contrast with the rigorous methodological presentations of Tillman and Ladner and with OCLC's high-powered explorations of the Internet. Nonetheless the far-ranging nature of the network technologies themselves are well exposed and examined by this variety of approaches.

Although the volume is dominated by narrative essays, a significant number of presentations do utilize quantitative

analysis to make their points and raise questions. For example, an essay by Martin Dillon et al. on "The OCLC Internet Resources Project" brings OCLC's formidable technical resources to play in analyzing Internet File Transfer Protocol (FTP) sites. The initial analysis presents surveys of the twenty largest FTP sites, listing the Internet addresses of the sites, as well as the number, size, and type of files (e.g., text, images, executables, etc.). The OCLC researchers then present the results of an experiment that examined the feasibility of cataloging such files at FTP sites. A sample of three hundred files extracted from the examined FTP sites was randomly assigned to thirty primary participants for cataloging.

The article by Ladner and Tillman also utilizes survey methods to describe existing practices among special librarians. The authors identify the types of Internet functions being used by special librarians (e.g., e-mail, FTP, Telnet, etc.), how often these functions are used, and the rankings of perceived importance by special librarians of these resources. A two-level hierarchical listing of "Internet Use Categories" is a definite keeper for those interested in exploring the amorphous range of resources on the Internet.

The narrative analysis approach is best represented by Clifford Lynch's "The Roles of Libraries in Access to Networked Information" and James Love's "Current Issues and Initiatives in the Electronic Dissemination of Government Information." Lynch, as is usual in both his writings and his presentations, brings to bear an ability to clarify complex issues. In this essay he draws parallels between current conditions in libraries and earlier times in the broadcast industry. Among other subjects, Lynch explores the topics of free infor-

mation and the role of advertising in the changing information environment. He concludes by challenging librarians to convince those paying for the construction of our technological future that we librarians "can add value by furthering the objectives of the financiers."

James Love couples real-world activism aimed at changing the penurious dissemination of public domain information by the U.S. federal government with a comprehensive exposition of current legislation, policy, and bureaucracy as they relate to federal information policy. His synopsis of the Security and Exchange Commission's EDGAR project, the Department of Justice JURIS system, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-130 makes this a contribution that should be used in all graduate-level courses dealing with government information for at least the next twelve months—a shelf life typical of any work dealing with the existing technological and economic environment. A cursory examination of one element of the published OCLC data in this collection (the current size and number of files at the FTP site [wuarchive.wustl.edu](http://wuarchive.wustl.edu)) shows an unsurprising steep increase in both figures since the very recent publication of OCLC's study.

Although the overall quality of this compilation will also make it a valuable item for historical purposes, some of the presentations are of the ubiquitous "look-what-we-did" genre. Such writings are valuable in other contexts, but they tend to clash with the overall scholarly nature of this book.

As would be expected from one of the flagships of the profession, the Graduate School of Library and Information Science of the University of Illinois, these are high quality proceedings of a professional conference with work of current and relevant information for academic librarians.—*Raleigh Clayton Muns, University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri.*

*The African-American Mosaic: A Library of Congress Guide for the Study*

*of Black History and Culture.* Washington D.C.: Library of Congress, 1993. 300p. \$24 (ISBN 0-8444-0800-X).

As the first fully referenced, illustrated, and indexed resource guide to the Library of Congress collections on African-American materials, this work is an essential reference tool for librarians and sophisticated library users. Its aims are to ease the work of researchers who visit the library and to increase public awareness of the full range of the library's resources for the study of African-American history and culture.

The guide is chronologically arranged in three sections of nine chapters that span the years from the antebellum period to the Civil Rights era. Although the guide presents the initial story of African-American history and culture through the window of slavery, it ignores the history of the African American before the slave trade. There is no mention of LC's extensive African civilization collection or its works on African exploration of America before the slave trade, key components in the study of the African-American experience in the United States.

*African-American Mosaic* is a logistical blessing for researchers faced with the prospect of visiting three different buildings, secondary storage facilities, and many reading rooms to explore or access materials. Now researchers can identify and direct themselves to relevant LC materials via number, date, name, or title, as well as to other libraries and archival holdings.

The book reveals an impressive array of resources not generally known outside the Library of Congress. Previously obscure resources include, for example, the House Un-American Activities Committee collection of four thousand pamphlets that document "the activities and thinking of militant or extremist African American groups"; the collection of Daniel Alexander Payne Murray, an African-American bibliophile who worked for the Library of Congress for fifty-two years; and the LC Carter G. Woodson collection papers on Hiram Revels, the first African-American U.S. senator.