Book Reviews

Essentially a check list

Sources of Australian Financial Information Melbourne: Infoquest Business Publications. August 1983. 40pp A$25. ISBN 949 519 05 7

Essentially a checklist of selected sources whether in printed form or in computerised databases this publication aims to 'alert those interested and working in the field to available information sources'.

Printed sources, Electronic Information services and Contacts are included, the entries being unnumbered in eight sections with no indexes and printed on one side only of 4 pages and cased.

A typical entry for the print sources is *Personal investment. Melbourne, David Fallick monthly)*. No publisher's address or price is given and there is no indication of how long the serial has been published. The entry cited does not note that the periodical incorporates the official journal of the Australian Associated Stock Exchanges. Some eighty serials include investment newsletters but do not identify them as such. Other print sources are listed as Reference Material or as Books and Related Monographs: some one hundred publications released since 1970.

Such a list is useful for checking items in a collection but if one is interested but unaware of what is available, the lack of description of the contents or the evaluative comments on the items selected makes the list of limited value. Potential investors whether individual or corporate would find the inclusion of prices, or at least some indication of the very expensive items, most helpful.

The most useful section is Electronic Information Services where a brief note on content, time span, producer, updating frequency and supplier alerts potential users to 28 services. There are no evaluative comments and charges for use are not indicated.

One quarter of the space is given to Contacts where a selection of Commonwealth and State Government departments, ten industry and five professional associations are listed. Only the address, phone number and telex is given. This section needs a description of the relevant responsibilities of the government departments and a list of the financial information sources it issues. Although some libraries and information centres hold major collections of Australian financial information and some offer access to electronic information services they are omitted from this publication as are Chambers of Commerce.

In seeking sources of Australian financial information one should also consult *A Guide to Sources of Information on Australian Business* by Joy Sheehan. Pergamon 1983. 28pp. A$9.95 for print sources, although it regrettably has a cut-off date of 1981. Infoquest's publication contains some more recent material and rightly emphasises electronic information sources but it is essentially a checklist offering little guidance to those interested in financial information.

Peter Bloomfield
Library Board of WA

An essential reference work

The Australian librarian's manual: volume two, legislation/ed. David J. Jones. Sydney, Library Association of Australia, 1983. 695 pp. $80 ($60 LAA Members) ISBN 0 86804 018 5.

This is the second volume of the three volume *Manual*. The first, *Documents*, was published in 1982 and the third volume, a *Glossary*, is in preparation. Volume two gathers together library and archives related legislation including that on copyright, library deposit and freedom of information. The legislation is grouped according to each state, territory and federal legislature with the Act and Bills arranged alphabetically by title and subordinate legislation following the governing Acts. The volume has a 20 page index, but where Acts originally had their own indexes, they have been reprinted here with the Acts.

The introduction says the work should serve a number of purposes, but merely assembling the material is useful in itself. To bring the legislation together for one's own state should not be a taxing reference task but it may be quite a paper chase in the case of other states. The volume allows easy comparison between the legislation of the different States and the Commonwealth which should be useful to students of librarianship and administrators. For the latter this is especially so at a time of legislative change. As well as suggesting better alternatives when framing legislation the comparisons can also highlight anachronisms caused by the slow process of legislative change.

It is reassuring for example, that with a new building due for occupation this year no person is allowed to spit in the State Library of Western Australia (Reg. 19)). On a more serious note there is some variation in the definitions of 'book' for the purpose of library deposit, confining it in all cases except Tasmania to printed material. Unless these definitions are regularly revised the nation's deposit libraries will miss out on new categories of library material. As well as these straightforward uses for the volume there are the less obvious ones, as the Editor points out: 'As a reference librarian I am seldom surprised by the ways in which fellow librarians use reference works for unintended purposes. This work should give them fair scope for practising their consummate ingenuity.'

Except for minor amendments library legislation has been relatively static for many years: the New South Wales Act 1939, the Queensland and Tasmanian Acts 1943, Western Australia 1951, Victoria 1965 (Library Council) and South Australia the most recent, 1982. However there is now a state of flux with library-related legislation. The Tasmanian Parliament passed a new Archives Act last December and the Government is currently considering a draft Bill for a new Libraries Act and is likely to introduce it to Parliament this year. South Australia and Western Australia include public records in their Libraries Acts and both States are contemplating new and expanded legislation for this area.

In assembling a comprehensive collection of State and Federal legislation on one subject David Jones, the editor, has undertaken a daunting task usually performed with greater resources by companies such as CCH and Butterworths. These companies deal with the updating problem by producing loose-leaf tools and they are accordingly expensive. It is the expense of this method which rules it out for the *Manual*. This is an essential reference work for most libraries in Australia and its worth will be so much enhanced if it can be kept up-to-date.

Denis Abbott
State Library of Tasmania

How to change a typewriter ribbon

Modern library practice. 2nd ed/edited by Sheila Ritchie. Buckden, Eng: Elm Publications, 1982. 342pp. £8.90. ISBN 0 9505829 5 9.
Information filing and finding/Pat F. Booth and M.L. South. Buckden, Eng: Elm Publications, 1982. 300pp. £7.90. ISBN 0 9461390 0 8.
Modern library practice emanating from Ealing College of Higher Education is a team effort update, co-ordinated and edited by Sheila Ritchie, of *Library practice: a manual and textbook* published in 1977.

It is a basic introductory compendium compiled for beginning students of librarianship in the United Kingdom, and consequently oriented to the British library environment. The coverage embraces the nature, history, services, organisation and management practicalities of libraries. Consequently the treatment of complex topics is often sketchy and oversimplified, and the approach is didactic rather than analytical.

The material is presented in the lecture/key point structure as a teaching/learning tool, the content of each of the eleven chapters being reinforced by various diagrams. A number of library forms are also reproduced. Separate chapters allocated to the marketing of library services and the concept of community librarianship, together with the matching of computer applications to the various library operations, constitute the main new orientation of the text. The glossary appears to attempt to extend the coverage of the text rather than define terms used in the text, as several of the glossary terms have no other reference.

As a team effort, the book is a mixture of styles, and there are times when the treatment descends to the banal: 'Any library owning two or more typewriters should reserve one for best work' (p 299), leading to the injunction that 'All staff should be able to change a typewriter ribbon. Makes and models differ but golden rules are:— remove all work from the roller before attempting to change a ribbon; when the new one is in position, test it for correct alignment on a piece of scrap paper' (p 300). Such details on typewriters have apparently been considered of greater relevance than any discussion on computer software which is dismissed in a few cursory generalised sentences. However, the book is useful as a guide and awareness tool for those to whom librarianship is a new field of study and it could provide a ready reference and overview of British libraries for overseas students.

Information filing and finding is a foundations type text about the basic theory and practice of document/information retrieval. It is aimed not only at beginning students of librarianship, but also at 'students or staff who have an information filing and finding content in their work, without necessarily being concerned primarily with library/information work' (p XV).

Therefore, Chapter 1 is concerned with fairly detailed discussion of the meanings of the terminology of information retrieval as used within the context of this book. In accord with the title, the coverage is oriented to file creation/format/content/arrangement, to verbal and coded document content representation, and to principles and general procedures of searching with some comparison between manual and computer searches. Each chapter is essentially a descriptive overview of the main factors of which a student needs to be aware. As a

teaching tool the text is well exemplified, but the exemplification has for the most part the traditional general library orientation, and is therefore more friendly to librarianship students than to the generality of information filers and finders in non-library environments. However, the student is made aware of the basics of indexing, vocabulary control and search logic as well as being guided through the literature of the subject through the chapter references and general list of further readings.

Although detailed analysis of particular techniques is outside the scope of an elementary text, there are occasions when cryptic statements could lead to student confusion rather than comprehension, such as the attempt at explaining the PRECIS concepts of 'deep-structure grammar' and 'surface structure' (p 134). The main text (Chapters 1-9) concludes appropriately and tidily with a segment on evaluation based mainly on Lancaster. Chapter 10 Indexes for Individual Documents, therefore gives the impression of an afterthought.   *Doreen Goodman*, Centre for Library and Information Studies
i_____Canberra C.A.E.

Highly commended

Communication's changing face: the challenge to libraries. Library Association Conference, Blackpool, 1982. Papers. London: Library Association, 1983. ISBN 0 85365 8455.

If you have been bewildered by the increasingly vast literature on dramatic new developments in micro-electronics, telecommunications and computing, and confused by conflicting predictions of the consequences off such developments for the future of the library profession, then this brief collection of ten papers by (mainly) British librarians, and information specialists of various kinds, provides useful and concise overview.

Tom Stonier opens with a refreshingly optimistic vision of the impact of the information revolution and the communications era, which developed countries are now entering, despite the fact that 'the new information technology is going to kill jobs right and left.' The main hurdle we have to clear is to re-orient people who were socialised in the industrial era, to the features of a post-industrial economy and society, in which an increasingly small private sector produces the wealth, whilst the public sector produces the employment. In this society, education will be a major activity and librarians will be 'information guides'.

Alan Benjamin reviews the impacts and discontinuities of current developments, and discusses ways of increasing the level of awareness about information technology, and of convicing people that this is a manageable phenomenon.

There are contributions on the effects and impacts of new technology on publishing; on community services offered by libraries; on the education of school children and of students of librarianship; on leisure, and on privacy.

In his presidential address, K.A. Stockham, without in any way contradicting the overall conference theme of an interactive and guiding role for librarians in making information more accessible in an era of new technology, looks back at traditional library roles and appeals for a 'rediscovery of the notion of service' and for library managers who are 'fond of books and people'.

This must have been a most exciting conference for those who were fortunate

enough to attend it, as the papers are of consistent excellence both in presentation and in content. I commend the books to students and practitioners.
David Waters
i_____University of Tasmania

The bare dry bones of new technology

The impact of new technology on libraries and information centres. Report of the Library Association Working Party on the New Technologies. (Library Association pamphlet; 38). London. Library Association. 1982. 54pp. £4.75. ISBN 0 85365 925 7.

The 1979 Annual General Meeting of the Library Association approved a motion which established a 'Working Party on the New Technologies', chaired by J. Wormald. The Working Party's report, published as this pamphlet, attempts to give guidance to the Library Association Council and the profession as a whole on the likely implications of the introduction of 'the new technologies' (the wretched generic, which is quite well defined by the report) on the management, organisation and structure of library services.

The Report, which originally 'bore only too clearly the imprint of different hands and minds' has been edited by Bernard Naylor into its final published form.

The pamphlet contains a comfortable collation of cautious, conservative, generally factual statements. However, the committee process and subsequent editing has reduced it to a consensus document which is utterly colourless. It contains very little with which to disagree because very few interpretations or extrapolations are made, irrespective of the fact that the Report was supposed to cover the impact which the introduction of various kinds of new technology into libraries and information centres is likely to have during the next five to ten years.

The Report has two main sections. Section 2, 'A general look at the new technologies', is an overview which touches almost every topic from the principal features of electronic communications to social barriers which pose an obstacle, to the introduction of new technology. Each topic receives one or two short paragraphs. Section 3 concentrates on, in particular, computer applications and issues of interest to libraries.

Most examples used in the Report are British and, as such, the Report can not be seen as being universally applicable. Probably aided by the Report's three-year gestation period, technological development has already overtaken some of its factual information, for example, available disk storage size. Nonetheless, most of the issues and topics sketched in the pamphlet are of concern to more than British information workers. An appendix, 'Basic elements of computers and computing', is a brief and uncomplicated introduction to computer terminology for anyone who has no background in this area.

The Recommendations which the Working Party put forward to the Library Association Council are, on the whole, extremely tame and generally merely recommended further monitoring and assessment.

Although certainly not an innovative document, the pamphlet could be recommended to technological nervous nellies as it will not get anyone excited and, to its credit, has reduced the complexity of the subject to its bare, dry bones.

Marita Hargraves
i_____State Library of Tasmania

A valuable volume for the Information Age

Annual Review of Information Science and Technology, Vol. 18 / ed Martha E. Williams. White Plains: Knowledge Industry Publications for American Society for Information Science. 1983. 447pp. US$45.00. Supplied by Bennetts.

ARIST volumes are doubtless the most important bibliographic guides to the general literature of information science and technology. This volume continues to fulfill the series' perennial purpose: to describe and appraise activities and trends in this broad field.

The topics surveyed are selected on the basis of timeliness and reader interest. Acknowledged experts review key papers appearing within a one-year or multi-year period, depending on ARIST's last treatment. The ten chapters are arranged in four established sections: basic techniques and technologies, applications, the profession, and special topics. 'Planning information systems and service' disappears as a section but is better assimilated within the chapters.

The ASIS inclination toward the human factors issues in the information sci/tech arena is maintained in V. 18. The two subject-oriented chapters of 'Toxicological information' and 'Energy information systems and services' are timely in meeting vital Australian public interests. Only 'Primary publications systems and scientific text processing' contains segments the layperson might label 'technical'. Other chapters have more political concerns of information policy, planning, or evolution, the epitome being Manfred Kochen's 'Information and society' position paper.

Given this perspective, both a topical and specific bibliographical omission is noticed. Does ARIST intentionally skirt integrated information office automation areas? And why has no review yet encompassed that most important 'ASIS Journal' article by Karen Levitan on the life cycle of information production?

The Special Topics chapter 'Information Systems and Services in China and Japan' contains encouraging reports on the incredible degree of effective private/public sector co-operation capitalising on recognition of information as a commodity. By geography, planning and promotion Japan Inc. is convincingly pegged to achieve the world's first mass national information system.

The extensive, scholarly bibliographies are essential for academic and applied researchers. The very readable reviews alone make this volume — indeed, the series — suitable and valuable for any school and public libraries concerned with quality offerings to citizens in the Information Age.

Sue Hill
—— Information Management Consultant

Sound principles, a useful buy

Alternative Materials in Libraries/ ed. James P. Danky and Elliott Shore. Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, Inc. 1982. 245 pp. US$16.00. ISBN 0 8108 1508 7.

Alternative materials are defined as being those items produced by non-standard, non-establishment groups or individuals, usually on topics considered to be controversial in today's society. This well-documented text is useful for any librarian who wishes to make a serious foray into this field, and is limited only by its use of American examples.

The opening chapter describes what alternative publishing is all about, and why librarians should be more interested in this area of activity. Case studies comparing the alternative and established press's treatment of 'rape' and the 'Iranian revolution' indicate that alternative press sources are more dependable as an information resource in both timeliness and content.

One chapter provides an awareness of the variety of alternative materials available for, and appropriate to, libraries, and gives solutions to some of the more common problems encountered by libraries in acquiring them. Once the alternative materials have been acquired, they need to be catalogued, and the deficiencies of established systems (such as LC) are pointed out. Guidelines and sample catalogue entries are provided to assist the reader.

The next step is to provide a reference service based on alternative publications, and the pros and cons of establishing a 'special collection' are discussed. The book also analyses the value of reference tools in the various subject areas covered by alternative publications. Advice is given on how to source and select non-print alternative materials, usually a difficult process at the best of times.

An interesting chapter considers libraries from the publisher's viewpoint, and points out the problems and faults associated with establishment librarians and their actions — this chapter will no doubt hit a raw nerve with some readers.

Finally, the book contains a list of sources of alternative materials, and for further reading (internationally-based, although no Australian sources are mentioned).

As I mentioned earlier, the book is only limited by its American references, although most alternative materials could be expected to originate from same. The principles elsewhere in the book are sound, and as such it is a useful buy. Perhaps an Australian supplement could be published in the near future to complement this comprehensive work.

Mike Friganiotis
—— Darwin Community College

Uneven in quality, but two pleasant surprises

Computerised Systems in Library and Information Services/ ed H.L. Williams. London: ASLIB. 1983. 76pp. £9.50. ISBN 0 85142 169 5.

This work comprises the proceedings of a conference of the Aslib Biological and Agricultural Sciences Group held at the Commonwealth Institute, London, on 9 June, 1982, and includes five papers given at the conference followed by an analysis of a conference questionnaire completed by 22 of the delegates. A list of delegates is also included.

It is difficult to review this publication as a whole as the five papers are very uneven in style, quality and content. It may be of interest to comment on each paper individually. The first paper. 'Computerisation: a new dimension for library and information services' by Tom Norton, Chief Librarian, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, gives, as he says, a brief overview of computer applications in agricultural libraries and information services. It is a clear and well-presented paper, but very basic and pitched at a very low level. It would appear unlikely that delegates to the conference would be unaware of the information given in this paper, which includes brief descriptions of Online Bibliographic Retrieval Systems, Prestel, Inhouse Library operations, Networks and Microcomputers — the whole compressed into ten pages of text.

The second paper, 'Selecting an appropriate system' by J.H. Ashford, a systems consultant, again tries to give an overview of a very large area in a short space of time and appears to have had more difficulty than the first speaker in maintaining a happy medium between oversimplification and use of technical jargon or acronyms. The paper gives a number of warnings to the uninitiated, but appears too general to be of particular relevance to any but the totally uninitiated who may well be confused by it.

The third paper, 'Management of Change — The Step to Computerised Library and Information Services' by P.J. Russell and R.E. Wiggins of BP International Ltd, presents a simple outline of suggestions for the preparation of a case for computerisation of library and/or information services. Like the first two papers it is oversimplified and pitched at a very low level.

The final two papers were a pleasant surprise — both being interesting and informative.

The fourth, 'Micro-Automation' by P.F. Burton, Librarian of Leith Nautical College, sets out the matters to be considered when selecting a microcomputer system. This paper assumes a basic level of knowledge from its audience, whilst explaining technicalities where necessary and could hardly fail to help any librarian or information manager wishing to know the basis of micro-computer applications.

The main interest in the fifth paper 'Mainframe Application' by P. Gallagher of Shell Research Co is that it describes the specific, mainframe applications used for bibliographic information retrieval at Shell Research UK Ltd.

This is a little book likely to be of relevance only to special libraries and specialised information services, particularly, but not necessarily in the agricultural and biological sciences field. However, it probably will not tell the initiated much that they don't know already, and, with the exception of the two final papers, it seems too simplistic and generalised to be of much help to the beginner. On the plus side, the papers by both Burton and Gallagher are well worth reading and all the papers have bibliographies for further reading.

Elisabeth Garran
Baillieu Library
—— University of Melbourne

Valuable and timely

The Librarian's Guide to Microcomputer Technology and Applications/Lawrence A. Woods and Nolan F. Pope. White Plains, NY: Knowledge Industry Publications. 1983. 209 pp. US$27.50 (pbk.) ISBN 0 86729 044 7. Supplied by James Bennett Group.

There is danger in publishing in the field of computers and their library applications, and even more in publishing a book in the field of microcomputers. For, as the authors acknowledge, what is described as 'state of the art' or 'future trends' is highly likely to become the 'past' as the book rolls off the press.

Nevertheless I found this a valuable and timely book. The authors wrote with a dual purpose: to provide readers with a 'very basic understanding of the technology of microcomputers' and to gather into one source the information concerning microcomputer applications which is otherwise only available scattered through the journal literature and conference reports. They have succeeded admirably in both aims.

Chapters 1 and 2 describe the evolution of micros and provide an excellent and basic description of the hardware. For the many who have difficulty remembering the difference between 'bits' and 'bytes', or become confused when sales or systems people begin bandying 'ROMS' and 'RAMS'; or for those who may be at home in the context of mainframes or minis, but lack familiarity with micros and are unsure of 'data bases' and 'memory boards', 'CP/MS' and 'MP/MS', these chapters are invaluable.

So too, is the chapter on software, which explains operating systems, language compilers, applications programs and data base management systems, examines the different types available on the different makes of micro and explores the advantages and disadvantages of each. Two chapters on 'Design Considerations for Developing and Evaluating Software' and 'Software and System Selection Issues' are useful background for the librarian attempting to select the best micro to meet a defined set of needs.

Chapters 6 to 9 cover applications. To obtain a realistic picture, the authors conducted a survey ('82-'83) under the sponsorship of the American Society for Information Science. (A similar survey conducted in Australian libraries might prove invaluable.) The information gathered was drawn on in the applications chapters, and provides both a state-of-the-art picture and a vivid demonstration of the microcomputer's potential. The 'User Service' applications outlined include data base searching, circulation and reserve room functions, media booking, inter library loan, and instructional support. 'Technical Service' applications discussed include acquisitions, serials and binding control, production of catalogues, listings and bibliographies, and data base building, while examples of 'Management' applications include word processing, electronic mail, financial control, maintenance of mailing lists, personnel and membership files, scheduling (rosters), and inventory control.

The final chapter, 'Future Trends', provides fascinating glimpses into the near future. Predictions include the gradual supersession of 8-bit by 16-bit micros, internal memories of 1 megabyte common by the mid 1980s, common use of video discs with micro interfaces, development of integrated systems to run on micros, the release of program generator languages, and the development of software on a chip. Implications of these and other developments are briefly explored. The future looks exciting for all librarians, particularly for those in small libraries, whether they be public, special or school.

In addition to the usual bibliography (useful) and glossary, (well-selected and not circular), there is a potentially useful appendix compiled from the survey of users, which provides the address, hardware type and application. There are also appendices of selected hardware and software vendors, but these are of limited relevance in the Australian context.

In summary, the book is a useful tool for self-education, and for those exploring options for handling library tasks. It should, however, be obtained and digested quickly, for it faces a limited shelf life.

Alison Crook
i_____ State Library of New South Wales

State-of-the-art after two and a half years?

International study of copyright of bibliographic records in machine readable form. Dennis McDonald. New York: Saur, 1983. 149pp. ISBN 3-598-20392-4. Supplied by the James Bennett Group.

Commissioned by IFLA in 1981, this report provides the results of a study undertaken by King Research. As its title suggests, its primary focus is examining copyright in relation to bibliographic records. Consistent with IFLA's preoccupations, emphasis is given to the implications for controlling the international exchange of bibliographic data in machine-readable form among national bibliographic agencies.

Having interviewed several 'knowledgeable individuals', distributed questionnaires to 37 national bibliographic agencies and received replies from 21 (the National Library of Australia not being among the returns), and reviewed relevant copyright laws, the study team drew a number of conclusions, and made several recommendations. They found that only a few national bibliographic agencies claim copyright protection for the records they produce, and concluded that at present, bilateral exchange agreements are the most sensible mechanisms to control the exchange and use of bibliographic data by national agencies.

The report's recommendations include further quantifications of the costs and benefits of international bibliographic exchange, a regular statistical survey of such activity, and the establishment of a clearinghouse for exchange agreements and contracts. There is also a recommendation for IFLA to establish an international consortium to address 'legal, political, technological, and social issues' relating to the international exchange of bibliographic data, with organisations and programs such as UNESCO, UBC, ISSN providing a starting point. The recent withdrawal of US funds from the United Nations and the ramifications for such programs make one wonder if such an exercise in advanced navel comtemplation will in fact eventuate.

Some more practical recommendations involve participation of IFLA and its members in international and national forums discussing copyright law and intellectual property.

Although this report is perhaps not the best place to start if you're looking for a discussion of the thornier questions surrounding copyright of abstracts in machine-readable databases, some of the general comments of the report may prove interesting. For example with respect to machine-readable bibliographic databases, have people 'struggled too hard to apply familiar legal principles . . . such as copyright . . . to problems that do not require complex legal contortions in order to create satisfactory relationships.'?

Those interested in the general question of

controlling use of bibliographic records by third parties (is it possible??) will find the volume of interest. However, as approximately half the volume consists of a detailed analysis of questionnaire responses and appendices (the questionnaire, list to respondents, etc.), its main appeal will be to those intimately involved with the exchange of national bibliographic agency records.

As a final comment, it's a pity that it takes so long for such studies to see the light of day in printed form. Commissioned in mid-1981, and with its most up-to-date bibliographic reference August 1981, the study findings were submitted to IFLA in May 1982 and published in 1983. Can we really regard findings two and a half years old as 'state-of-the-art'?

Diana Killen
i_____ Infoquest

A pleasure to read

The Online Catalog: Improving Public Access to Library Materials/Emily Gallup Fayen. White Plains: Knowledge Industries 1983. 148pp. US$27.50 ISBN 0-86729-053-6. Supplied by the James Bennett Group.

The present popularity and importance of this subject is shown by the fact that this is the third monograph about this to appear within a year. All three works are important contributions to this very exciting development in librarianship.

Ms Fayen's book has one very great advantage: it is a pleasure to read. Indeed the facts go down so smoothly that one is in danger of swallowing the more contentious points uncritically. Statements such as 'an online catalogue (at a minimum) must provide keyword access to the entire bibliographic citation' and 'no system that does not provide this crucial feature can truly be called an online catalog' must cause pain to the majority of her North American colleagues who claim to be running online catalogues.

There is a useful early chapter listing advantages and factors to consider. On questions that arise for all libraries intent on installing an online catalogue, such as size of database, whether to include diacritics, and retrospective conversion, Fayen clearly lists all the alternatives and brings the experienced designer's pragmatism to her comments on these alternatives.

In the cause of readability Fayen has often chosen to offer a general discussion rather than minutely worked out answers — in areas such as choosing the software, types of terminals, patron and staff training, hardware and software costs — but the advice she offers is rich in experience and sufficient to set any normally competent library staff on the right track.

The obligatory run-down of the available systems is offered, though the reader is pointed to the works of Matthews and Hildreth for a more detailed coverage in this area.

One of the most useful chapters in the book, which alone would justify its purchase by most libraries, is Chapter 7, entitled 'Evaluating the Online Catalog'. This is a summary of the findings of the mammoth CLR study on online catalogues conducted in 1982, set out in the form of advice to the library administrator on user reactions and needs and how to meet them.

I found this book to be a model of how such works should be written. It is one of the few books which, by the practising librarian will almost certainly be read from cover to cover.

Tony Mays
i_____ Deakin University

well reasoned call to action

Universal availability of publications/ Maurice Line and Stephen Vickers. New York: K.G. Saur, 1983. 139pp. (IFLA Publications 25). ISBN 3 598 203878 X. 42DM.

Maurice Line, the Director General of the British Library's Lending Division has been the driving force behind IFLA's programme for the Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) since its inception some eight years ago. This little book is very much the gospel according to Line.

UAP was adopted as a goal for IFLA following the success of its campaign to publicize UBC (Universal Bibliographical Control). The two concepts indeed go hand in hand though, as the authors of this book are quick to point out, it is too easy, perhaps particularly for librarians, to slip into the error of thinking that once UBC is a reality, UAP will follow as the night follows day. Quite the contrary is the case. As the book emphasises, improvements in bibliographical control 'can be a source of frustration as more and more users become aware of the existence of more and more potentially useful material more and more quickly after its publication while systems to provide that material are far less advanced'.

The book has two objectives; first, to draw attention to the importance of UAP and the serious present limitations to it and second, to set out and discuss what should and can be done about these limitations.

By way of introduction, the authors note that the UAP programme concentrated initially on publicity and research, a phase which they regard as having culminated in the International Conference on UAP held in Paris in May 1982, under the joint sponsorship of IFLA and UNESCO. They regard themselves as moving now into the next important phase, the initiation of action — so that this book is not just the Gospel but a call to arms.

The book's chapter heads set out how the authors seek to achieve their two objectives: the nature and scope of UAP; access and availability: the user's angle; the production and supply of publications; the acquisition of publications; keeping publications available; interlending, national and international; special categories of publications and conclusions.

All in all the whole thing is done in a very workmanlike way. It is clear, concise and comprehensive. It is also a little bland and oversimplified. It is the kind of book which most librarians, one suspects, would find very easy and rather dull reading. On the other hand it is a useful, compact treatment of an important topic which, because of its very obviousness, proves difficult to impress on policy makers and purse string holders.

Despite the deep involvement of Maurice Line, it must be said that the well-known Line enthusiasms are kept surprisingly well in check. In commenting on the organization of national interlending systems, for example, the book goes no further in advocacy than to say 'the optimal solution in most countries will consist in a balance between concentration and decentralization. The further the system goes in the direction of concentration, the more efficient it is likely to be'. Such restraint!

The final chapter contains some very sound comments on the importance of national information planning 'the framework for adequate availability' but notes that the 'agents of action' to secure UAP go beyond governments to embrace information professionals, professional associations and indeed the users themselves.

While this reviewer has a little difficulty in swallowing the Paris Conference as having 'lit a torch' for UAP, he is quite happy to recommend this book as a well reasoned call to action and one which any librarian would be well advised to have to hand.

Harrison Bryan
National Library of Australia

A useful record perhaps, but with little new information

Information Technology on Screen: new approaches in viewdata, teletext and cable. Proceedings of the Joint One Day Seminar held by Aslib/Institute of Information Scientists/Library Association, 8 November, 1982 £6.00. London: Library Association. 1982. 63pp. ISBN 0 85365 736 X.

This volume comprises seven papers from the seminar, covering telesoftware and the optical video disc, as well as viewdata, teletext and cable. An eighth paper, on teleshopping, is listed in the contents, but not included, because the speaker felt that a transcript of his primarily visual presentation would be either unintelligible or a distortion'. Most of the papers suffer from just that problem. Although they were meant to have been 'prepared specially ... for this publication', some of them appear to be transcripts of the verbal presentations, and would be greatly improved by editing.

The contents of the papers vary a great deal in quality as well. The best are those on telesoftware and the optical video disc, which contain substantial descriptive information as well as some assessment of the achievements in these fields. The papers which describe two public viewdata projects are more limited in scope but provide well organized, practical, 'how to do it' information. However the remaining papers are of little interest. The description of British Leyland's private viewdata system is too brief to be of any use. The paper on cable refers mainly to well-known developments in the US and bemoans local inertia. The speaker on teletext had occupied his position for only seven days prior to the seminar and quite rightly disclaimed any real knowledge of the subject!

In general, the speakers are more concerned with description of ongoing projects and pay little attention to future developments. More seriously, they give no attention to the wider context, or indeed to the significance of their projects, either technically or socially. Brief reference is made to the Alvey Report but its implications are not explored. There is no unifying theme to the seminar and no links between the various projects, except for conventional wisdom about the home information system, which is going to give 'more people, more access to more information than they have ever had in the past'.

This collection of papers adds little to the burgeoning literature about the new information technology. It might be useful as a record, for those who attended the seminar, but as is the case with so many published proceedings, it leaves the rest of us wishing we could have directed a few pointed questions at the speakers.

Sue Nielson
Kuring-gai CAE

An address book for Judaica Suppliers aimed at the wrong market

Building a Judaica Library Collection: A Resource Guide. Edith and Meir Lubetski, Libraries Unlimited Inc., Littleton, Colorado, 1983. 185pp, US$30.00 ISBN 0-87287-375-7.

This work is largely a buyer's catalogue for Judaica, listing acquisition sources of books and non-book library materials in Judaica. In addition it identifies bibliographical resources for librarians wanting to develop a Judaica collection. If a guide to resources is what a librarian needs to build a Judaica collection, then the work succeeds tolerably well. The book names most of the major publishers, bibliographies, indexes, reviews, catalogue services, data services and media producers in the Jewish world. There are some surprising omissions, some surprising inclusions, the latter because the authors relied on the advice of others from time to time and failed to check that advice. One other problem with the work is that it sometimes substitutes the arcane for the obvious.

The reviewer finds the work useful, but suspects that it is aimed at the wrong market. In the academic world — the authors speak of the burgeoning of on-campus Jewish studies courses, hence the need for this book — few libraries are likely to develop holdings in Jewish studies of the scope where such a resource book is necessary, unless there are solid courses in the field being taught on their campus. However, experience would indicate that ordering for the library is normally done on the advice of academic staff. They tend to be specialised and usually know what they want and where to go for it. On the other hand, one sees immediately that the book makes a useful reference tool for Jewish school libraries and teaching resource centres. Yet it is in this regard that one of the most serious omissions is to be noted. The Council on the Teaching of Hebrew, Jerusalem (which is not mentioned), has published 14 resource Bulletins, some of especial importance to the very readers who would find this book useful.

More thought should have been given to the question of what constitutes Jewish studies. One would imagine that Biblical archaeology is a component of Jewish studies, yet very little attention is paid to this subject. Among the periodicals listed in the review section one would have expected to find the *Israel Exploration Journal, Qadmoniot* and *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*, to name only the more important omissions among journals reviewing Judaica.

Why include the section on manuscripts? Few libraries would buy facsimiles of manuscripts unless they were providing for serious research programmes: in this case sources woud be known. As for the information about 'reference sources indicating the location of manuscripts' it is grossly inadequate for holdings outside the US.

The list of book dealers outside the US is uneven and has not been checked by the authors. The list for most of provincial Britain should be excised as being misleading and frequently wrong.

The most useful role of the book, one suspects, will be as an address book for Judaica suppliers, to save librarians looking elsewhere in their records, provided that the addresses are more reliable than those printed for Britain.

A.D. Crown
Department of Semitic Studies
University of Sydney

Interesting but not inspiring

UK Library database system and union catalogues/ ed. Leo Favret and Tony McSean. London: Library Association. 1983. 95pp (LA Conference Proceedings Series in Library Automation: 3) ISBN 0 85365 806 4.

In January 1983 the Library Association held a seminar to discuss a planned UK Library Database System (UKLDS). Encouraged perhaps by the response to the seminar or influenced by the weight of the subject matter, these proceedings were, to quote the editors, 'rushed into print to preserve the newsworthiness of the material'. The rush is unfortunately reflected in the quality of the publication which contains quite a few typographical and proofreading errors. This however is a small quibble.

Briefly the UKLDS proposal is for a common database to be created from those held by the British Library and various British Library cooperatives. The stated objectives are to obtain and provide access to an acceptable bibliographic record for items catalogued by a library, and to obtain and provide access to information on UK library holdings.

The seminar began with a description of the proposed system from the two perspectives of a catalogue data service and a union catalogue facility. This was followed by responses to the proposal from representatives of the cooperatives, and the academic, public, and special library sectors. It was rounded off with a general discussion.

I had a sense of deja vu when reading the papers; the whole discussion is strongly reminiscent of the seminars and presentations which preceded ABN. The same problems discussed; the same criticisms raised. Perhaps chastened by previous endeavours in national systems which seem to have achieved only lukewarm success. British Library representatives were concerned to point out what UKLDS would not be. The first thing it is not going to be is a library utility — this is to be left to others. It will not be a national database — UKLDS 'will not pretend to be comprehensive, and all-embracing'. Thirdly it will not be a rigid and totally preconceived system. This seemed to be the escape clause which allowed the other two 'nots' to be put aside if pushed by users.

Henry Heaney from the University of Glasgow wanted to abandon full MARC cataloguing in favour of short title catalogue entries. The failings of MARC were again aired.

Presenting a public library view, Ian Swanson dwelt on the three 'C's, the problems of cost, currency of information, and classification. It would appear that the failure of the BLBSD to recognise a Dewey class for biography has caused great dismay to public libraries in Britain, and no doubt elsewhere. Problems with the currency of UK MARC information is a recurring theme in the proceedings.

Angela Haygarth-Jackson professes yet again how special the special libraries are when it comes to participation in national cooperative schemes. She sees special libraries as users rather than contributors to a UKLDS.

I found no indication of new directions or creative thinking in the proceedings. A reader hoping to find some examples of the lateral thinking that has been shown in similar conferences is the past will be disappointed. They do however provide a statement of the current direction of library automation in Britain at the national level. For those who like to remain informed of developments overseas, particularly in Britain, the proceedings, while not inspiring, will make interesting reading.

Chris Hannan
State Library of Victoria

Sounds good, but unbalanced

Video to Online: Reference Services and the New Technology/ed. by Bill Katz and Ruth A. Fraley. New York: Hawthorn Press. 1983. 205pp. ISBN 0 86656 202 8. This collection of articles was also published as *The Reference Librarian*, Numbers 5/6, Fall/Winter 1982.

The book has a catchy title, but it is not a balanced collection. Of the twenty-four articles, sixteen deal directly with online information retrieval, three with other aspects of online systems, leaving five to cover any other new technologies which may affect libraries and librarians. Online information retrieval is a relatively familiar new technology, and one with which many librarians now feel comfortable. The book would be more useful if it dealt in greater depth with the new technologies looming on the horizon.

Several of the sixteen articles allocated to online information retrieval contain useful information and interesting opinions. Chenoweth, Cooper, Oberman and Holland have contributed 'how we do it' articles, which are good, basic reading, but with some overlap and repetition of major points. These four articles cover the major administrative considerations in the integration of online searching with reference work, some advice on getting online, and a discussion of the 'quick and dirty' search usually done on demand at the reference desk. Weaver's article on charging for online searches makes valuable points about the decision on which searches should continue to be free and about the advantages to the patron of the flat rate charging structure. An article by Unruh, a DIALOG staff member, also covers administrative aspects of online searching.

Of the remaining articles on online searching, Hauptman is useful reading for his brief description of end-user searching.

Martin and Wood contribute an article on interlibrary loan which indicates the possibilities offered by technology to a traditional library service. Ridgeway and Mitlin make a good case for the involvement of reference staff in decision making on online circulation systems. Hurych, in an inconclusive article on the relationship between the librarian and the client, indicates how the relationship is changed by online searching, particularly when fees are charged.

The five articles on other new technologies look briefly at micrographics, Apples, videodisc and videotext. Also covered is the development of a microcomputer database which, after the interrogation of it and the enquirer, would provide not the answer, but a list of possible sources where the answer might be found.

Although the publication date is 1983, the book has something of the complacency of the 1970s, and lacks a real sense of urgency more appropriate in the 1980s when new technologies threaten to take information management and materials collection out of the hands of librarians. Some useful hints can be gathered from it, but it is content, in the main, to look at how things were.

Ann D. Wilson

Not a definitive test

Library interior layout and design. Proceedings of the Seminar held in Federiksdal, Denmark, June 16–20, 1980/Edited by Rolf Fuhlrott and Michael Dewe. Munchen, K.G Saur, 1982, 145pp. ISBN 3 598 20386 1.

IFLA's Section on Library Buildings and Equipment has organised five seminars on buildings since 1971. The present seminar was held in 1980 and was attended by 60 participants from 22 countries including a number of developing countries.

This is not a definitive text on library interiors but a minor work of value to those who are embarking on their first exercise in public library design. Both librarians and architects will find a limited amount of material of interest in the seminar proceedings.

From the title the reader might expect to find a series of papers discussing some basic principles on the use of built spaces in libraries. The spatial relationships between the major interior functional areas can have many solutions depending upon the site and other existing constraints. Access points for pedestrians and vehicles need careful attention and become closely related to interior movement patterns and spatial relationships.

These topics are not addressed in the book, except for a brief comment on the evolution of spatial relationships for small to medium sized public libraries from the Carnegie period to the 1950s when the flexible open-plan became acceptable and increasingly used.

The book opens with four chapters on the organisation and planning for public libraries in Denmark. Some useful legislative and administrative background is given on the linkage between the national planning system and public library planning in Denmark. Two prominent Danish public library planners give a descriptive account of the approach used to plan the spaces needed for the various functions to be included in a particular building project. Some examples of the use of quantitative standards for various interior elements are given, although the data used is not necessarily current as the Danish manual quoted, *Public Library Buildings*, dates from 1967.

This section on Danish practice will be useful although regular readers of *Scandinavian Public Library Quarterly* will probably be familiar with much of the material.

The following six chapters do not have Danish influence but are written by distinguished librarians and cover a series of peripheral topics, in some cases with great brevity. In most cases the topics can also be applied to other than public library buildings.

Security against fire and theft is given six pages and can be regarded as an introduction only to these two problems. A further chapter on fire protection design by an architect adds a little to this coverage. The two following chapters on the conservation of energy in the planning of libraries, and the physical or ambient conditions within library buildings are of increasing relevance and contain a useful summary of these aspects. Two more chapters, one on graphic design and sign presentations, and another on library lighting are also worth examining for new building ideas.

The book closes with two short chapters, one containing brief descriptions with plans and photographs of five recent Copenhagen public libraries visited by the seminar participants. The other is a description of the National Library in Warsaw completed in

83.
The book has no index but does have a bibgraphy of 65 items which may be more luable as a reading guide than the text elf.

Warwick Dunstan
_____ State Library of Tasmania

must for many theological braries

eligious Books and Serials in Print '82-1983. New York: R.R. Bowker, 1983. xix, i24 p. ISBN 0-8352-1451-6. $A137.50.

he title of this work might give the casual ader the impression that it contains a com-'ehensive listing of the world's in-print iblications in the areas of religion and theogy. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Derived from the *Books in print* data-base, is actually limited to American publica-jns. Neverthless, it lists some 52,800 titles 'ailable from 2,400 publishers and 3,500 se-al titles. Since most libraries specializing religion and theology acquire most of eir materials from American publishers, BSIP is a basic and essential reference tool r such a library — unless, of course, it has :cess to the full *Books in print* service.

This is the third edition of this compara-'e newcomer from the ever-expanding jwker stable. Although the publicity leaflet dicates a publication date of January 1983, ere is no indication of exactly when the en-es were extracted from the computer files surely not an unreasonable expectation!

The publishers have attempted to include les due for publication in 1983. The suc-ss of such an attempt must depend on in-rmation being supplied by individual iblishers. So it is encouraging to find any titles which have rolled off the presses ily in recent months. But is is also disturb-g to note that many have failed to appear.

fact, Bowker's own *Religious books 1876- '82* (which promises to be one of the most iluable of all religious reference resources) conspicuous by its absence.

Books are listed in three sequences — by bject, author, and title — with full biblio-aphical details for every entry. All the in-rmation one could want for ordering is ven. A separate section gives full informa-jn for contacting each publisher.

Since subject headings in the topical in-:x are supplied by Library of Congress cat-oguers, subject cataloguers can check hether they have assigned the same head-g as Library of Congress to a particular jok. This feature could be made into a valu-ile cataloguing aid if a reference were pro-ded from the author/title entry to the levant subject entry or entries.

An unique feature of the new edition is the ibject Area Directory, which gives a broad 'erview of the 6,200 subjects covered in top-al order. This is particularly helpful both a guide to the scope and breakdown of a oader topic and as a guide for in-depth or mprehensive selection in a particular sub-ct area. For example, 'Congregationalism' ings together 26 narrower subjects (mostly imes of Congregationalists) for which there e books in print. By way of contrast, 'Doc-inal theology' lists some 350 narrower sub-cts, all of which would need to be covered a comprehensive selection policy.

Another unique feature is the Sacred orks Index, which includes the different rsions and editions of the sacred books of l major religions. Not only is this listing parated from the general indexes, but is ac-

tually more extensive than *Books in print*. Special features of individual editions are fully detailed. Curiously, the list includes *The Anchor Bible*, which is not a Bible version, but a series of Bible commentaries.

Entries for the Serials Section are taken from the Bowker Serials Bibliography Data Base and indexed in two sequences — by subject (with full bibliographic details and ordering information) and by alphabetical order of titles (with page references to the fuller entries). This reviewer would prefer the full details under the straight alphabetical listing rather than the subject listing. Unfortunately, it also means that the topical divisions, being designed for the full range of knowledge, are not really helpful for the specialist theological library. Most of the items appear under the broad and general heading of 'Religions and theology'.

A library with subscriptions to both *Books in print* and the Ulrich's directories can probably get by without this publication, but miss out on the Subject Area Directory and the Sacred Works Index. For any religious or theological library not receiving the larger works, *RBSIP* is absolutely essential.

(Rev.) Trevor Zweck
i_____ Luther Seminary Library

Showing the way

A Sign System for Libraries/ Mary S. Mallery and Ralph E. De Vore. Chicago: American Library Association. 1982. 33pp. ISBN 0 8389 03770.
T.L. Robertson Library Sign Manual/ J. Henderson. Perth: Western Australian Institute of Technology. 1982. 10pp. $8.50. ISBN 0 908 155 72 7.

If a sign manual is to be considered essential for the continuing successful operation of a sign system, it should set down the basic rules decided upon for signs and should contain details of the particular signs in use in the institution, their size, placement and so on.

It is unlikely that the sign manual of a particular institution would be altogether useful for a wider audience, since it would be tailored to the needs of that institution, but both of these publications represent attempts to set down guiding principles for sign systems.

Henderson's sign manual for the T.L. Robertson Library at WAIT represents a useful model for the library of a tertiary education institution. The various principles that have been decided upon in relation to typeface, format, colour, materials and so on are discussed and the advice offered is sound and practical. The library has adopted a grid system with three basic sign sizes 'to enable Library staff to produce a sign of almost any nature in full confidence that it will match the existing system'.

The manual seems to imply that most signs are produced in-house and consequently contains considerable detail on spacing of words and letters and sign layout. It is interesting to note that the manual scarcely alludes to any methods of controlling the wording on signs except for a basic discussion on the composition of effective messages. It is unlikely that this alone would guarantee uniformity and restraint of style and content without the help of some central editing authority.

Mallery and De Vore's *A Sign System for Libraries* is the result of a project to develop a uniform sign system for the Western Maryland Public Libraries. It is an attractively

produced publication and is one whose presentation follows the principles of typeface and layout which it advocates.

The earlier sections of the manual contain basic information on typography and layout with clear examples. A useful idea is a glossary of terms or a sign vocabulary listing the approved terms to be used to designate library materials and services. Such a sign vocabulary is probably essential for any sign system to avoid inconsistencies and confusion. The authors wisely suggest that the same terms be used by library staff when giving verbal directions.

The use of colour coding is advocated along with the use of symbols to reinforce the sign message. Internationally recognised symbols are recommended for various amenities and specialised pictographics for library services are suggested. Since some of these are not widely known or easily recognised, they may cause some problems.

Approximately half the manual is devoted to detailed discussion of the various methods of sign construction and installation. This provides a detailed overview but it is to be hoped that, armed with this information, librarians would have such signs professionally made rather than embark on their construction themselves.

Both publications offer sensible advice and useful information, and would aid librarians who are investigating their libraries' signage problems and who are deciding upon needs for the implementation of their own particular sign system.

Catherine Sexton
i_____ University of Sydney Library

Useful reading for those interested in the education of librarians

The Spirit of Inquiry: The Graduate Library School at Chicago, 1921-51, by John Richardson. ALA: Chicago 1982. 238pp. US$35.00. ISBN 0 8389 3273 8.

This book is based on a Ph.D. dissertation for the University of Indiana, but it is by no means just the thesis. The author states his aims in the Preface and it is clear that he found his subject, the story of GLS, one that demanded to be told.

> My perception of the GLS's accomplishments is that they imbued a formerly hollow phrase 'Library Science', with real meaning, created a *de novo* approach to librarianship by stressing the spirit of inquiry, and emphasised the fundamental unity of our profession, whether it is viewed as an art, science or craft.

This is a story about people, and reveals the many conflicting ideas that had to remain unreconciled if the Chicago School was ever to get off the ground. The Williamson Report and the Chicago Library Club, the ALA and its Board of Education, all debated the establishment of a national graduate school. The Carnegie Corporation with Keppel in charge listened, commented and finally made up its mind to provide generous funding. Then the University of Chicago itself had to be convinced, and it took over the carriage of the matter under a committee headed by J.G. Laing, Dean of its Graduate School of Arts and Literature.

There is much in this book of value to teachers of librarianship, and the obvious differences between the practitioners and the academics are worth heeding. Laing had this to say about the ALA leaders:

> The more I talk to Milam and Miss Bogle the more I am convinced that the kind of school that we ought to have is one on a different plan from anything they have ever thought of.

On the other hand there were many in the profession who believed that the school was 'off the rails and bumping alone the ties', when Louis Round Wilson took up the Deanship in 1932.

When a student at GLS in the 1950s I learned that Wilson was the great Dean of GLS. But this account makes me wonder. He established the one-year program, he emphasised the study of administration, and he built a strong faculty who pursued their research interests. Shera's introduction to this book reveals that Shera had no doubts about Wilson's pre-eminence. But it seems unlikely from this record that Wilson would have hired George Works, or Pierce Butler, or Douglas Waples, or Bill Randall, whose visions were important in the development of GLS.

May I suggest that all those interested in the education of librarians take a break from reading about teaching methods, curriculum building and student assessment and read this book. It is not just the story of one school; the debate which began in 1923 is still relevant, the tensions between town and gown still exist. If our profession is to survive it is important that we promote the debate, preserve the tension, and pursue always the spirit of inquiry.

Jean P. Whyte
ı_____ Monash University

A worthwhile addition

Selecting instructional media: a guide to audiovisual and other instructional media lists. Mary Robinson Sive. Third edition. Littleton, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited. 1983. 330 pp. $US22.50. ISBN 0-87287-342-0. Supplied by the James Bennett Group.

This is an instructional media bibliography designed to help librarians and teachers in locating selection tools for both primary and secondary students. It includes media lists published as monographs, indexes to periodicals, review media, bibliographies within monographs, indexes to periodicals, media reviews in periodicals and media lists abstracted in ERIC.

It is also an organising tool for the librarians as the numbers it uses for media lists can be used as identification numbers when lists are included in the library's collection.

A broad definition of media has been used making the work useful for the selection of a wide variety of materials. 'Media' includes audio and video recordings, filmstrips, film, slides, transparencies, kits, study prints, simulation games and microcomputer software.

More difficult-to-locate media such as art reproductions, maps, microforms and photographs are included as well as government, free and inexpensive printed publications.

Entries have clearly presented information on the author's purpose and criteria in selection, grade level, subjects covered, media represented and special features of use to the librarian or teacher.

The indexing system is excellent. Separate media and instructional level indexes are included as well as author, title and subject indexes, assisting in the selection of the most appropriate list for a particular subject or teching strategy.

This publication may have limited relevance to Australian schools. Media lists are selected for their suitability for programmes undertaken by American students in grades K-12 and only include those published in the United States. The author's thorough description of the contents of each media list will help the user decide.

The bibliography expands the work done by pioneers in the field of media bibliography, Carolyn Guss and Margaret Rufsvold, with their *Guides to newer educational media*, first published in 1961 by the American Library Association. The most recent edition appeared in 1977 and has now been superseded by Siva's more current bibliography. Almost twice the number of media lists are described and include media such as computer software. Those who found Rofsvold's bibliography of assistance will no doubt find this one a worthwhile addition to their collection. *Pam Johnson*
ı_____ NSW State Rail Authority Library

Valuable contribution to theological bibliography

Religion in Australian Life: A Bibliography of Social Research/ed. Michael Mason, comp. Georgina Fitzpatrick. Bedford Park: National Catholic Research Council and Australian Association for the Study of Religions, 1982. 254 p. ISBN 0 908083 09 2. $13.50.

The National Catholic Research Council was founded to promote sociological research. It is also making some valuable contributions in the area of theological bibliography. The book under review combines both, in a research project unique in its field. As the editor suggests, it aims to provide a listing of studies already done in the field of religion to serve as a springboard for further sociological research.
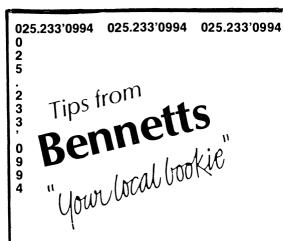
The definition of 'religion' is broad enough to incorporate world views and value systems (which occupy a whole chapter of their own), as well as obviously ecclesiastical concepts and activities. The 3600 items chosen for inclusion had to satisfy the criteria of 'research' (defined as disciplined or systematic enquiry) and of 'religious sociology' (the editor's term[1]). For one reason or another, a greater number of items located were rejected.

The bulk of the entries (including books, articles, theses, proceedings, and various unpublished materials) were drawn from ANB, APAIS, and HDeg, but the compilers obviously searched very widely for others. The bibliography covers only the period from 1945 to 1981, relying on Ferguson to cover all previous materials. Such items as popular magazine articles, popular pamphlets, book reviews, autobiographies, 'popular' histories, and RE textbooks are excluded, as also are most materials relating to Aborigines (this area being very adequately covered by AIAS bibliographies.)

It would not be difficult to discover some omissions of items which might well have been included, but it is important to see this work as a pioneering one in its field, providing us with a bibliographic tool which has not previously been available. One obvious drawback of the work is the final section, in which items dating from 1978 through 198? are listed in one alphabetical sequence, disjointed from the very useful classified sections which make up the bulk of the book. It is to be hoped that this fault will be corrected in some future edition and that the opportunity will be provided for the submission of missing items.

Meanwhile, the work does provide a basic bibliography which is an obvious 'must' for every theological and every academic library. However, the scope is so broad and the subject so pervasive (not to mention so obviously Australian) that it should certainly also be found on the shelves of all public libraries in Australia.

(Rev.) Trevor Zweck
ı_____ Löhe Memorial Library