

Beyond this, however, the chief importance of the book is its timeliness. As library networks evolve beyond theory, the coordination of purchasing and processing may be one of the last tasks undertaken, but when it is tackled, the Colorado study will be invaluable in planning such operation. It is a welcome relief to have a research report appear while the findings are still useful.—*Donald Hendricks, Sam Houston State University.*

**Scientific and Technical Communication: A Pressing National Problem and Recommendations for Its Solution.** National Academy of Sciences-National Academy of Engineering. Washington, 1969. 322p.

The SATCOM report, as this work has now become known, is basically the report of a committee made up of representatives from both the government and private enterprise. Its charter was to examine the communication problems of both areas, in broad perspective, paying special attention to information activities, policies, relationships, etc., of private groups and organizations, and their interaction with federal agencies. Further, it was to make recommendations based on the present status and future needs of an effective national and international information system. The result acquits itself quite well.

Using the charter as a base, the report is divided into several parts: recommendations, state-of-the-art background, and the extension or explanation of the recommendations. Placing the recommendations in the beginning is very effective. The only weakness in format is the lack of an index.

The recommendations are presented in groups: those dealing with planning and coordination (establishment of a joint committee, leadership at the national level, shared responsibility, copyright legislation, standards); those concerning services for the user; those on classical services (abstracting, indexing, meetings); those on personal information communication; and finally, those involving research and experiments. In content the recommendations do not propose anything radically new. They are relatively broad and as a result lack force. For the first time, how-

ever, they do take into serious consideration both governmental and private information activities and strive for closer coordination and in some cases integration. Unlike some of its predecessors, this report also provides detail for each recommendation, resulting in cohesiveness.

The greatest contributions of the report are the state-of-the-art background chapters: "primary communications, the basic access services, consolidation and reprocessing, and new technologies and their impact." These chapters are well-written, imaginative compilations of both the major concepts and the literature. They are well documented and the selection appears to be excellent.

The report stresses the role of the professional societies, services to special user groups, coordination efforts in both government and private areas, and the participation of the whole community. The recommendations are well stated and firmly based, and the reader can see from whence they came through the documentation. The international scene is included, but the orientation is definitely national. There is a certain weakness in the lack of recommendations for implementation. They do recommend a Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Communication, but this appears more advisory than implementative. Anyone working in the information communication field will find something of interest in this report.—*Ann F. Painter, Indiana University.*

**De wetenschappelijke bibliotheken in Nederland; programma voor een beleid op lange termijn.** Netherlands. Rijkscommissie van advies inzake het bibliotheekwezen. 's-Gravenhage, Staatsuitgeverij, 1969. 72p. \$1.25.

The important activities of the National Advisory Committee for Libraries in the Netherlands have now resulted in the publication of a long-term plan for coordination and development of academic and research libraries in that country.

In an attractively produced publication, the committee reports in detail on some major issues facing academic libraries: problems of information retrieval and bibliographic access, collection development,