the research function of libraries and librarians, and centralization vs. decentralization arguments. Separate chapters deal with auxiliary technical processes, reproduction problems, conservation of library materials, building efficiency, personnel, organizational structure and legislation. Each topic is treated systematically, with a careful analysis of the problem involved, a discussion of national and foreign trends, and a list of specific recommendations with suggestions for implementation. In a final chapter the committee lists priority recommendations for the period until 1972 with regard to legislation and organization, library education and the status of library personnel, together with a recapitulation of the most important topics for further study.

With regard to legislation the committee recommends the establishment of a legal depository in the Royal Library in The Hague and a subsequent change of the current trade bibliography into a national bibliography. Other proposals include clear legal status for libraries in the academic structure, changes in copyright laws, and the establishment of a national executive body to coordinate and guide future library developments. Of special interest is the request for government support for the acquisition of significant manuscripts and early printed materials. Better guidelines are needed for library education, the status of academic librarians, professional and supporting staff. There are recommendations for the special training of restorers, translators and information specialists.

As major fields of further study the committee mentions: a national plan for collection development, a depository for little-used materials, mechanization and automation, standards for library buildings and equipment, and a national plan for research in the fields of manuscript study and historical bibliography.

Much of what the committee discusses and most of its recommendations are of wider relevance than the Dutch scene only. An English translation of the full text of the report would make a most stimulating document available to a world audience.—Hendrik Edelman, Joint University Libraries.


Characterized as a textbook for non-graduate British library science students preparing for their General Professional Examination, this slim volume might be better described as a syllabus. The first chapter on government of libraries presents an excellent summary of the role played by the central government in financing and controlling national, academic, and public libraries in the United Kingdom. The composition of major governing boards is delineated with excellent internal references to government documents containing additional information. Major elements of The Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964 are contrasted with earlier legislation, indicating the probable impact of the 1964 act.

Chapter three details the sources of national and local revenues and methods of allocation to library functions. An adequate summary with examples of a revenue and a capital budget identifies the elements which comprise the annual and long-range needs of the library. Only one item in the bibliography deals with finance, and it is restricted to public library finance.

The remaining chapters are of considerably less value. Chapters on "management" and "staffing" are a series of broad, general truisms on the qualities of a head librarian and the need for clear-cut lines of authority. It is noteworthy that no mention is made of staff involvement in the decision-making processes, goal identification, or basic personnel management practices such as staff evaluation conferences. Basic concepts such as scientific management and systems analysis receive no recognition. The chapter on "stock control" seems more appropriate for a book on technical services, since it deals with operational techniques rather than managerial skills or administrative options; even so, the paragraph on the role of the computer seems an inadequate recognition of its potential.

Library schools offering courses in comparative library systems will find the chapters on "government" and "finance" of
value as well as the appendix which gives
the examination questions from previous
years. Some pertinent monographs are con­tained in the bibliography of suggested
readings, but a heavy emphasis on public
library titles is evident. Despite the lucid
style and a few informative chapters, the
general paucity of descriptive or inter­pretive information makes this volume in­appropriate for general library purchase.
—James Foyle, University of Denver.

Computerized Library Catalogs: Their
Growth, Cost, and Utility. By J. L. Dol­by; V. J. Forsyth; and H. L. Resnikoff.

The principal value of this book is as a
catalog of considerations relevant to the
design of mechanized catalog production
systems. Some research results and some
suggestions on specific design features are
presented. The book is particularly recom­mended to library administrators and li­brary systems analysts. Computer jargon
is used only when necessary, and, when
used, is defined for the nontechnical reader.
The “growth” in the title is dealt with
in terms of the fact that libraries tend to
grow at an exponential rate. Estimating
the growth rate for individual libraries can
be difficult because of the unavailability of
reliable statistical data. A method of using
imprint dates as a basis for such estimates
is suggested. In addition, an original meth­od of predicting the language breakdown
of future acquisitions is presented. Using
this method, the authors predict that for­eign-language materials will constitute a
constantly increasing percentage of future
acquisitions of research libraries—a predic­tion that will be of interest to all library
administrators.

A chapter entitled “An Analysis of Cost
Factors” concentrates on hardware-related
costs. It includes a particularly lucid sec­tion on the problems of choosing a pro­gramming language, and a useful com­parison of input devices. The claimed po­tential for cost savings should be viewed
warily, since it is not clear what costs are
included in those presented. A brief ap­pendix to this chapter, surveying some
linguistic data manipulation languages, will
probably not interest the nontechnical
reader. Another chapter, on typography
and format, discusses the important prob­lem of achieving maximum information
density on the printed page while main­taining legibility.

Among other values of the book are a
stimulating discussion of publication sched­ules for book catalogs and supplements, and a chapter on automatic error detec­tion. It is regrettable (but easily explained
by the paucity of work on the problem) that the latter does not concern itself with
the more general question of automatic editing, since a hefty portion of the cost
of most mechanized cataloging systems is
attributable to the necessity of human edit­ing. In backfile conversion projects espe­cially, it appears that automatic editing
routines could be devised that would prof­itably make use of the large amount of
organization already present in catalog
card data.

On-line catalogs are not discussed, prob­ably because, for most libraries, it now is,
or shortly will be, feasible to use com­puters to produce human-readable cata­logs (perhaps in microform), while plac­ing the catalog on line is a possibility only
for the more distant future. A more seri­ous shortcoming is the failure to discuss
the use of machine-readable catalog rec­ords acquired from extramural sources.
There are serious problems to be solved
before local systems can make effective
use of such records, but their availability
will radically affect the costs of mechaniz­ing catalog production. Nothing in the
present book is invalidated when external­ly produced catalog records are consid­ered, but to the extent that they are available, they must be taken into ac­count in system design.—Kelley L. Cart­wright, University of California, Berkeley.

Directory of Library Consultants. Ed. by
John Berry III. New York: R. R. Bowker
Co., 1969. 141p. $10.75.

It seems to me that this volume will,
because it is enumerative and not evalu­ative, serve a very limited purpose. Li­brarians of large libraries usually know who
the real experts are for the projects for
which consultation help is needed. Repre­sentatives of small libraries probably do
not know this and they cannot find out