Advances were edited by that meticulous valuable interest and concern to practitioners. In the sixth volume, he has been joined by an erudite library educator, Michael H. Harris. This welcome new volume to the review literature is significant, for the major thrust of the work speaks to the vexing questions of accountability, productivity, and performance. It is the goal of the editors that for and justify every morsel of funding will find these observations and conclusions very beneficial.


Apart from their intrinsic merit, if these four essays indicate anything, it is the imperative need for librarians to have the skills to make an interdisciplinary analysis of the performance of their libraries in meeting the needs of their user communities.

The remaining two papers in this volume also represent important contributions to the field. Donald Davinson has done for library education in Europe what Lester Asheim did for library education in North America in volume 5 of this series. In painting a broad picture of library education on the European continent, Davinson exhibits an encyclopedic familiarity with the literature of several disciplines and the trends in European library education. American library and information science educators as well as others will find this essay an immensely stimulating study that may very well serve as a good background paper for a seminar on comparative librarianship.

Beverly Lynch, former Executive Secretary of the Association of College and Research Libraries, focuses on a topic of considerable interest to the profession, “The Role of Middle Managers in Libraries.” Her essay is a hard-headed, fruitful examination of the current role of that hybrid, “the middle manager,” including elements in the library environment that make for cooperative or competitive relationships. This comprehensive analysis of such a timely topic not only sheds much needed light on the subject, but the sources of material for the essay also constitute one of its major strengths.

Turning to the organization of the volume, the editors have followed the approach of previous volumes. Each essay is so structured that the reader is fortunate in that there is an outline of the major subjects under consideration. In addition there are copious references, and each essay is well written and documented. The inclusion of the table of contents of previous volumes and the excellent author and subject indexes enhance the reference value of the volume.

Each succeeding year this tome clearly demonstrates its uniqueness as an indispensable research tool.—E. J. Josey, Chief, Bureau of Specialist Library Services, New York State Education Department.


Designed as a textbook for an introduc-
tory course in library science, this book well fulfills its purpose. The various chapters cover: library history through the centuries; the place of the library as a social and cultural force and as a responsible communication network in society; the importance of reading and of "knowing men and books"; librarianship in a new role in the field of information science and the study of information processing devices and techniques such as computers and network systems; the "structure, organization and record," of the library and information science profession; the educational and research requirements.

Two chapters in the book were written by other people: chapter 4, "Deus ex machina," by La Vahn Overmyer, a faculty member of the Case Western Reserve Library School, and chapter 8, "Library and Information Services," by Margaret Anderson of the University of Toronto Library School faculty.

This book provides an interesting and readable introduction to the field of librarianship and information science. Jesse Shera is a literary man, a scholar, and a humanist. He writes well, with sophistication, and with a sense of humor. He cites authorities, and he expresses his own personal opinion and personal philosophy about the field of librarianship. He speaks for a balance between technology and scholarship and testifies to the breadth and depth and richness of the library profession. In the prologue of his book, Shera says, "The aim of this book, then, is not to introduce, much less to formulate, a philosophy of librarianship, or even to present a 'state of the art' summary, but rather to provide some insight into what librarianship is and the opportunities it offers to one who might choose it as a career."

In the opinion of this reviewer, Dr. Shera achieves his goal and much more. His book is interesting, readable, entertaining, and a contribution to librarianship.—Martha Boaz, Dean, School of Library Science, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.


This is perhaps the most depressing book that I have ever read—or at least in a class