library will generate trust, confidence, and high productivity and disagreements will be “openly and candidly discussed without rancor.” Such a vision is consonant with analysis that confuses delegation—a basic hierarchical mechanism—with group decision making and professional collegiality with participatory management. It is also consonant with a vocabulary filled with “inputs,” “outputs,” “throughputs,” and “feedback,” as well as one which utilizes the designation “professional librarian.”

Participative Management in Academic Libraries has a strong messianic tone, as though its author had accepted the mission of leading us out of darkness and into light. Alas, its result is to add to the darkness by muddling and distorting the situation it attempts to analyze and explain.—Eldred Smith, Director of Libraries, University of Minnesota.


While both of these books espouse the concept of the library-college, they are significantly different in coverage. The Robinson book is the first of a series to be published twice annually by the Library College Associates, so after a very brief discussion of the library-college concept and its jargon it concentrates on the “teacher.” “Teacher” in this case is defined broadly and encompasses both classroom teachers at all levels and librarians at all levels. The Schuster book on the other hand tries to cover the whole library-college concept and its application especially at the elementary and junior high level.

The Teacher, while philosophically dedicated to the importance of the library in any educational system, admits that the library cannot on its own initiative forcibly penetrate and invade the teacher’s planned procedures. This is a fact of life to which any librarian who has tried can attest. Without the support and cooperation of the classroom teacher, any program of library-college, library instruction, or bibliographic instruction will achieve only marginal successes. While libraries or librarians cannot forcibly penetrate the classroom, many have taken leadership roles and have implemented successful programs both in and out of the classroom.

Unfortunately, this book does not discuss any strategies or tactics for libraries to follow if they want to help implement the library-college concept. A full half of the book discusses ways of carrying out the concept, but it begins with several classroom teachers already convinced of the worth of the idea. For librarians with access to receptive teaching departments this section does contain many useful methods of incorporating the library into the classroom, but for the librarian struggling with a recalcitrant teaching faculty it is of little use.

The Schuster book comes very close to the genre of inspirational writing. The biggest flaw of the book is its failure to recognize the multiplicity of ways the library-college concept can be carried out. It presents independent study as the modus operandi. We are told that learners respond differently to different forms of media and that all forms of media should be made available to the learners. What we are not told in this book—but research is showing—is that not every learner can cope with independent study. Studies of PSI (Personal Systems of Instruction) have shown that some students want and need a very rigid, highly structured method of instruction. This book would have been of more use had it gone beyond just one teaching method.—Benedict La Bue, Reference/Bibliographer, University of Colorado, Boulder.


As a participant in the conference recorded in these Proceedings, I am delighted to have this record of the ten papers there