profiles have been based.—Wesley T. Brandhorst, Director, ERIC Processing and Reference Facility, Bethesda, Maryland.


The literature of comparative and international librarianship is beginning to bulge, and this work is another addition to the field. It is a collection of essays written by individuals whose names are well known in comparative and international librarianship. Harvey’s introduction presents the framework and gives the parameters of the contributions. The purposes, as stated by the editor, are legitimate ones: “to describe and assess significant and recent progress in comparative and international library science.” In general, the essays are well written, ranging from original and excellent to a rehashing of work done in other sources.

Part I, “Definitions and Research,” is led by J. Periam Danton’s pithy essay on the inadequacies of definitions of comparative and international library science. His critique begins with work done since 1972, since there have been several competently done prior to that date by Simsova, Harvey, and Danton. Including D. J. Foskett’s analysis of comparative studies in other fields is an excellent idea and helps to draw parallels between theoretical problems in comparative studies in such fields as education, history, and linguistics. Frank L. Schiek’s years of experience with library statistics makes his brief paper on problems in comparative library science a solid contribution.

Part II is a miscellaneous section concerned with recent progress in international and comparative librarianship. The thirteen papers cover a wide range of subjects: “International Organizations,” “National Organizations,” “National Library Services,” “Public Libraries,” “Children’s Library Science,” “The Changing Role of Audio-Visual Media,” “Comparative and International Bibliography,” “Multi-Culturalism, Libraries, and International Terminology,” and “Art Library Science.” The Kaser essay on nine international organizations is analytical and gives an interesting approach to the role of organizations in international library science. Horrocks’ paper is limited to national organizations in Canada, Britain, and the United States. Aman’s treatment of the current status of world bibliography is scholarly and includes Third World nations but ignores, as an example, the regional bibliography of Oceania. The independent nations of Papua New Guinea and Fiji have national bibliographies.

Other noteworthy essays are on comparative and international library studies in library education, international children’s literature, and an international look at the changing role of multimedia in education. This collection of essays leaves one hopeful that comparative and international library science is building a body of knowledge, despite the growing pains. The work should be of general interest to librarians, and most certainly to the growing band of internationalists in the field.—Miles M. Jackson, Professor, Graduate School of Library Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu.


The 1,475 entries composing this systematic bibliography appear under three types of headings: (1) “international,” for references to developing countries in general, to more than one continent, or to international and comparative librarianship in relation to the Third World; (2) twelve categories for regions (e.g., “Asia, South,” “British Commonwealth,” “Middle East”); and (3) sixty-nine individual countries. For the compilers, the newly developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America constitute the Third World; thus excluded are European nations, U.S., Canada, USSR, Australia, New Zealand, China, and Japan. Even so, not all countries find a place here—among them Cambodia, Uruguay, and several in Central America—presumably because the authors encoun-
tered no pertinent publications.

The choice of the years 1960–75 is not explained; probably this decade and a half proved convenient, but coverage of the entire period since World War II would have greatly enhanced the work's usefulness.

While the authors make no pretense at completeness and state their goal to be "representative, balanced, and useful" entries drawing on "what was recorded in the literature" and "available in the leading collections in the Eastern United States" (p.ix–x), it is apparent that English-language publications (journals and monographs) furnished the bulk of the entries; titles in French, German, and Spanish are occasional, and those in other languages quite infrequent. In fact, this lack of foreign language citations constitutes a major drawback.

For example, of sixteen entries under Brazil, only three are in Portuguese; one must conclude that either the compilers lacked access to or chose to exclude the growing amount of library literature from Brazil. Similarly, they acknowledge citing the articles under countries in the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences (in those volumes published to 1975, roughly the first half of the alphabet), but they offer no explanation for omitting several (Brazil, Ceylon, Chile, and Costa Rica). There are relatively few citations to such elusive items as reports submitted by experts and consultants at the conclusion of missions in Third World countries.

For these reasons, persons interested in library and information services in those areas will need to supplement the present work by consulting the bibliographical references in Simsova and Mackee's Handbook of Comparative Librarianship (2d ed.; Hamden, Conn., Linnet, 1975) and in Brewster's American Overseas Library Technical Assistance, 1940–1970 (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1976; especially p.362–87).

Without attempting to tabulate all entries, the user quickly discovers that 249 entries under "International" make up the largest section; in fact, it is too bad that so large a collection was not further subdivided. India's 235 citations appear to represent the highest number for an individual country, while in contrast there are fewer than four citations for some countries (e.g., Bolivia, Chile, Dahomey, Ivory Coast, Jordan, and Morocco).

Citations contain the usual bibliographic information, although occasional entries are not absolutely complete. Annotations vary in length from two to ten or twelve lines and in style from several full sentences to a brief descriptive phrase (e.g., "Surveys the history of Indian library education"). On the whole, annotations strike one as concise and accurate indications of content. Some duplication of entries does occur: one work, dealing with eight countries, is needlessly cited nine times—under the region and again under each nation. Other duplicates are probably accidental: the report of one meeting appears twice within three pages, once under its title and again under the sponsoring organization. Similarly, more than a hundred entries separate two editions of the IRRT Foreign Service Directory of American Librarians.

Opening pages include a brief preface, "Directions for Use," and a convenient chart listing countries under ten of the regional listings (this is not done for the British Commonwealth and Latin America). Whether readers' interests lie in the country or the region, they are well advised to consult entries under both headings. At the end, there is a fourteen-page author index, to which some names "closely associated" with the works have been added, but this policy is not uniformly applied.

A few needless geographical inaccuracies mar the work: Dakar is placed in Ghana (item 559), New Guinea confused with Guyana (item 589), and some references to the Inter-American Library School listed under Latin America rather than Colombia.

While all readers recognize the difficulty of avoiding errors in bibliographies, one wishes that both the compilers and the publisher had proofread this manuscript with greater care; small errors in citations, incomplete entries, missing diacritical marks, and similar typos are more numerous than they should be. Although the text is reproduced from typewritten copy, generous margins and white space make it quite legible.—William Vernon Jackson, The University of Texas at Austin.