The typewritten final report discusses the work of the entire project in eight sections: (1) project background and overview, (2) implementation of the automated cataloging system in the three original libraries, (3) computer system and data base overview and detailed description of system modules, (4) cost analysis methodology and before-and-after cost comparisons in the three original libraries, (5) analysis of feasibility of expanding system participation to other libraries, (6) proposed order system module (and expansion of the cataloging system), (7) project publicity activities, and (8) conclusions. Appendixes include project staff, BLCMP programs and macros, project documents, and a key to symbols used in flowcharts. There is an index.

The final report is very much like a case study of a cooperative library automation project. The reader will find an amazing amount of historical detail, presented in a chatty, easy-to-read manner, especially in those sections dealing with the cost studies, the computer system and data base, and the implementation decisions and strategies in each of the three original libraries. In the brief conclusions section, the reader is given a glimpse of future activities planned for the cooperative venture (deemed a success by the participating libraries), including direct data input and increased access to the data base.

Since the report deals with events and decisions begun almost eight years ago and finished three years ago, it cannot be viewed as a how-to guide for those libraries wishing to begin a shared computer system today, especially in light of networking developments in this country, such as the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC). However, the sections dealing with the impact of the computer system on the individual libraries and the reason decisions were made as they were, plus the detailed description of the cost analysis methodology, could be useful for libraries contemplating automation today.

—Eleanor Montague, University Librarian, University of California, Riverside.


Despite the fact that this book is written in Dutch for the use of Dutch librarians, it deserves wider attention. The concept of a comprehensive text and handbook for the field has not been tried in America for quite some time, but various plans for such a venture are being discussed at the present.

Written by a team of some forty specialists for use in various library training programs, the book’s emphasis is on academic and special libraries.

The opening chapter deals, appropriately, with library materials as physical objects. There is a useful glossary of types of materials with French, German, and English equivalents, a brief description of manuscripts, old and modern, and a section on graphic techniques, including reprographics. After a discussion of types of libraries, library education, physical planning, shelving, and preservation, there is a chapter on collection development. It is, acknowledgedly, based on Redenbacher’s excellent (yet untranslated) contribution in Milkau’s *Handbuch der Bibliothekswissenschaft* (2nd ed., 1961), but this compilation is most informative. It underscores the lack of any introductory literature in the English language. The chapter on internal library organization and technical services procedures does not offer any new viewpoints. Of interest should be the European approach to a text as well as a handbook.
so many different specialists. Comprehensiveness within page limitations is, of course, an additional problem. I would have liked very much, for instance, to see attention paid to professional concerns; the literature of librarianship, as well as to current areas of research in library and information science.

The editors have succeeded in an admirable fashion to find a balance between these problems, and the book should be a real help for quite some time to come for many in the profession. As an example of what can be accomplished, this is an important contribution and I hope that it will stimulate American efforts in the same direction.—Hendrik Edelman, Cornell University Libraries, Ithaca, New York.


The management of computerized on-line retrieval services is a subject of growing concern. To the librarian doing on-line searches, to the librarian referring patrons for searches, and to the administrators who must plan, allocate resources, and decide whether, when, and how the library will offer on-line searches, the proceedings of this meeting have much to offer.


Less comprehensive or prescriptive than David Wax’s On-Line Bibliographic Search Services (ARL, Office of University Library Management Studies Occasional Paper No. 4, June 1976), these papers address, from a variety of viewpoints, the new issues that plague us and the opportunities they present.

Anne Lipow’s paper covers the elements necessary to interpret the on-line service to potential users and describes such an integration at the University of California, Berkeley, within a seminar for faculty on “How to Use the Library for Advanced Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities.”

As might be expected with a new area, most of the authors introduce their topics well and summarize the state of the art, but as with any rapidly changing field, many questions do remain unanswered.

Peter Watson’s paper outlines areas of concern in evaluating an on-line search system before contracting for it and relates these to organizational considerations. Richard Dougherty reminds us that innovators must be prepared for a variety of responses and need to prepare a climate favorable to the acceptance of those responses.

It is the attitudinal climate of the middle 1970s that is the focus of the first section, which consists of surveys reported by Carlos Cuadra, Danuta Nitecki, and Pauline Atherton. Both the Cuadra and Nitecki papers repeat material published elsewhere (Judith Wanger, Mary Fishburn, and Carlos A. Cuadra, On-Line Impact Study [System Development Corporation, 1976], and Danuta A. Nitecki, “Attitudes Toward Automated Information Retrieval Services Among RASD Members,” RQ 16:133-44 [Winter 1976]).

The Atherton paper reports the impact on library reference staff, on library directors, and on library clientele. All seem to point toward rising professional status for the librarian, some changes in priorities by library directors, and increasing use of collections by clients.

This spiral-bound soft covered volume is