

where Afro-Americans were denied membership in white organizations. A chronology of events in black librarianship, 1808-1977, is thoroughly presented.

Section 3, "Contemporary Black Librarianship," traces the involvement of black librarians in library organizations, including the ALA Black Caucus and its impact on the American Library Association, as well as its role in motivating other caucus groups. Statistics on black libraries and librarians may be limited due to scope of and response from various surveys.

Section 4, "Vital Issues in Black Librarianship," does not attempt to deal with the total picture of librarianship in the Afro-American community but does discuss several serious issues the reviewer sees as being of prime concern to librarians in all types of libraries serving the black population. The contributors for this section appear to be more concerned with the patterns and importance of library services to children as cultural identity is developed and maintained. The academic librarian will be especially interested in the essay, "The Future of the Black College Library," and the emphasis placed on excellence of library services as vital to survival of the black college.

Section 5, "Significant Books and Periodicals For Black Collections," is a convenient, well-organized section that is in no way comprehensive; however, it can be of inestimable value for librarians attempting to build a core collection and to those interested in brief biographical sketches of black librarians as creative writers. For the most part, annotations for the reference books are brief but thorough.

Academic librarians will find the descriptive bibliography of selected African and Afro-American periodicals extremely useful based upon the four-point criteria by which selections were made to emphasize contents, worth, and usefulness of the titles. Other significant features of this section are brief essays dealing with black authors who have written best-sellers, black librarians who do creative writing, and black authors who have made significant contributions to knowledge and have been recognized through the ALA Notable Books list.

Sections 6 and 7, "African Resources" and

"Afro-American Resources," are outstanding features of the *Handbook*, which identify and describe resources for building African and Afro-American collections with emphasis on procurement and preservation. The essay entitled "Procurement of Materials from Africa" may well be a first attempt to describe the variety of programs and procedures involved in the selection and acquisition of African library materials. This is an invaluable resource for academic acquisitions librarians. The lists of reference books and periodicals, articles dealing with black authors, and listings of best-sellers all reflect the black experience in a unique manner. This reviewer believes this style of documentation to be a first. The black oral history programs, museums, and black historical societies are thoroughly researched and described.

Researchers will find the brief descriptions of four major African collections in the United States invaluable for locating source material. "Afro-American Resources" provides a mixture of ideas that academic librarians will find especially useful, ranging from the essentials for beginning collectors, pointers for archivists, and private collecting.

The bonus section of the *Handbook* adds value to the book as a general reference. There is much solid information, however fragmentally arranged. In order to retain its usefulness, updating will be necessary, especially where staff, budget, and acquisitions statistics are quoted.

The text is presented in clear, readable style, logically arranged. The *Handbook* is a must for all academic libraries and specifically for those serving predominantly blacks. It will be useful in homes and all other types of libraries as a basic reference. The binding looks good but unfortunately perhaps not as strong as needed.

The contributors, compilers, and editors are congratulated for their devoted labors, and perhaps noticeable gaps in coverage may be partially filled in a revised edition.—*Jessie Cottman Smith, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Princess Anne.*

National Conference on New Directions in Law Libraries, Denver, 1977. *National Conference on New Directions in Law Li-*

**braries: Multi-Media, Computers and Networks.** Sponsored by Trans-Media Publishing Co., Inc., and University of Denver Law School. April 12-15, 1977, Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colorado. Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.: Condyne/Trans-Media Distributing Corp., 1977. 124p. and five cassette tapes. \$125.

This work, the proceedings of a special law library conference, is itself in a multimedia format, part print and part audio. The principal papers are here to be heard, while the post-talk questions and the programmed discussions are reproduced in print. Although one could read the papers in a shorter time than it takes to listen to the cassettes, in this format you get a better "feel" of the presentations.

There are nine papers. Allen Veener's "Foundations of Library Micrographics" was read by Professor Roy M. Mersky, a conference cochairperson, since the speaker was unable to be in Denver; but the paper is only available in the print media. Arthur Tannenbaum described the "Media User Environment," and Carl Spalding characterized "Micrographic Equipment." Robert Sullivan assisted with the "Acquisition of Microforms for Law Libraries," and Arthur Levine followed up with "The New Copyright Law and its Meaning for New Technology." The remaining four papers were: "C-O-M" by Don Bosseau, "Audio-Visual Materials" by Howard Hitchins, "Use of Video in Information Retrieval" by Jerry Bradshaw, and "Multi-Media, 2000 A.D." by F. William Torrington.

In his part of the theme setting, Professor Mersky acknowledged that all too often and for too long law librarians have lagged behind others in adapting to newer approaches and newer techniques. His call was for catching up and moving ahead. If he is correct in his assessment, then one could find little fault in offering the law librarians present a considerable dose of information that is already well known and widely available in library literature, to say nothing about other general and special conference proceedings. The talks on foundations, environment, equipment, and acquisitions of microforms offered, to a large degree, "the same old truths," while the paper on copyright spent far too much time rehashing

the several sections of the new law and too little time on how it applies specifically to micromedia and especially to educational television and instructional television.

On the contrary, the next three were most helpful. Don Bosseau (whose name was misspelled and mispronounced throughout) offered a detailed and encouraging experience of a catalog in microfiche format (COM). Howard Hitchins, an expert in instructional development, stressed most effectively that the newer formats are not ends in themselves but serve as means of improving the educational process. I was particularly pleased to be able to *hear* his throwing down the gauntlet for the community of legal educators. Jerry Bradshaw gave a demonstration of the usage of videodiscs, but there was obviously no way for me to appreciate what the participants saw on a screen.

The final talk was, to be as kind as possible, unfortunate. Torrington, coming from a different and possibly limited experience in England, foretold and warned about the future. The printed discussion shows clearly that those present were in open disagreement with his prognostications.

The audio reproductions are excellent; I don't believe I missed more than a word or two. The printed discussions and questions seem somehow abbreviated through editing, although there was no suggestion anywhere that this was done. I know for a fact that most often the law librarians use legal stenotypists to record their proceedings, and the total feedback from the participants should have been made available.

The price is not unreasonable. I recommend the work to law libraries, library school libraries, and especially to those programs training law librarians.—*Leslie W. Sheridan, University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio.*

Breivik, Patricia Senn. *Open Admissions and the Academic Library.* Chicago: American Library Assn., 1977. 131p. \$8.50. LC 77-5816. ISBN 0-8389-3195-2.

Breivik has reported on an instance in which an academic librarian actively and creatively responded to a changing environment (open admissions at the City University of New York) instead of passively