

used alone as a textbook for materials selection classes, as too much is omitted or dealt with in summary fashion; used in conjunction with other materials, however, it could be a valuable contribution to the literature of library materials selection.—*Cathleen C. Flanagan, University of Utah, Salt Lake City.*

***The College Library: A Collection of Essays.*** Edited by George Jefferson and G. C. K. Smith-Burnett. London: Clive Bingley; Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books, 1978. 208p. \$12.50. LC 78-5945. ISBN 0-85157-252-9 Bingley; 0-208-01665-1 Linnet.

Is a "college" library a unique combination of resources and services, or is it like any other library of similar size forming part of an educational institution? The question is not posed by the authors of the nine essays in this volume, but the libraries they describe do belong to a special class. They are libraries in colleges of higher education, polytechnics, and junior colleges mainly in Great Britain.

Their closest counterparts on this continent are to be found in our community colleges and junior colleges. Most of these institutions offer a wide variety of programs to a heavy concentration of students who are served by a library of core materials, which usually contains a high proportion of audiovisual material in relation to its holdings of the more conventional book stock.

Although the essays contain many references to the North American situation, and the last essay is by a member of the staff of a Canadian university library who discusses the cooperative programs made possible by automation—OCLC, BALLOTS, UTLAS, among others—most pages are devoted to the growth of the college library in Britain during the past two decades.

There is a long essay on the history of the college library and others on financing, organizing, and staffing and on the services and training such libraries provide. The most interesting essays for the North American reader are those devoted to organizational structure and to staffing. Many of the problems defined have a familiar ring, and the solutions, though seldom new, are refreshingly stated.

The essays are consistent and well written, and the emphasis on the British scene should present no serious problem for most North American readers. There is one annoying feature: the rather too generous use of acronyms in some essays, which requires frequent scurrying to the list in the front of the book in order to identify the organization or group being discussed. The problem is doubtless greater for the North American reader, since many of the organizations are British and Australian and not commonly referred to in our library literature.

The book is essentially factual and descriptive and does not invite much argument. Each essay is well documented and provides a useful bibliography that the editors have conveniently left at the end of each section. The work is carefully edited, only a few minor typographical errors having been missed.

In spite of its positive features, the book is not likely to command a wide readership in North America. It is mainly useful for the student of recent library history or of comparative librarianship and for the beginning librarian in a community or junior college.—*Dorothy F. Thomson, University of Ottawa.*

**Larsgaard, Mary. *Map Librarianship: An Introduction.*** Library Science Text Series. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1978. 330p. \$17.50 U.S. and Canada; \$21 elsewhere. LC 77-28821. ISBN 0-87287-182-7.

Mary Larsgaard's *Map Librarianship* is the first, and long awaited, North American textbook on map librarianship. Its predecessor as the first textbook on the subject is Nichols' *Map Librarianship*, reviewed in the January 1977 *C&RL*. The Nichols volume has a strong English bias and, therefore, more limited applications in the North American context.

This new book is constructed in an unusual but very practical manner. It is basically a massive review of the literature, with footnote references in the form of author and date appearing directly after a statement. For knowledgeable map librarians, this means that the sources selected as the basis for the theory or analysis of a topic are immediately apparent. For novices they

lead easily to more detailed literature in the field.

This review of theories in the field does not stand alone but is coupled with a clear and incisive commentary from the author, in most cases directing readers to the most practical approach to take in applying the theories to their own map collections. North Americans in the field of map librarianship sometimes refrain from recommending one method over another in their articles to the detriment of students and beginning map librarians. It is to the credit of this author that she does take a stand in most cases and reveals a very sane and intelligent grasp of the possibilities, impossibilities, and potentialities of operating map collections today.

The book follows a fairly standard pattern of arrangement: A chapter on selection and acquisition is followed by two chapters on classification and cataloging, a chapter on storage and preservation, one on public relations and reference services, a chapter on administration and planning of facilities, and finally an overview. The book concludes with fifteen appendixes covering a variety of topics and the bibliography.

The chapter on selection is somewhat uneven, ranging rather too generally over the theoretical problems vis-a-vis policy, basic map purchases, atlases, globes, and aerial photos, with all examples geared to an American setting.

She does however make the point very clearly that selection and acquisition are probably still the most difficult tasks in running the map library because of lack of bibliographic control, the dispersed nature of the sources, the exclusion of maps from central handling by government agencies, and security controls. These problems can never be pointed out too frequently to the beginning map librarian.

From the point of view of an instructor in map librarianship, the chapters on cataloging and classification are invaluable, as they provide excellent summaries of manual and computer map cataloging systems as well as the various theories in the field, including the conflict over main entry. The timing of this summary is particularly pertinent, and the author emphasizes that standardization, through use of MARC-Map formats, ISBD (CM), LC Class G, probably AACR II, and

cooperative cataloging, is the only real direction to move in map cataloging to save time and money. As she queries: Is a briefer system really so inexpensive if it has to be done all over again in a few years' time?

The section on reference service perhaps stresses public relations, orientation, and user studies more than actual reference work; all are areas that have been overlooked until recently, particularly reference work. It is not surprising then that this chapter is one of the shorter in the book; but considering that neither Nichols' *Map Librarianship* nor any other overview of the field has included the topic in a separate section, it has been very well covered here.

The chapter on storage and preservation covers most topics, from sources of paper deterioration and repair methods to map drawers and storage modes for wall maps, plastic relief maps, etc. Since this is the topic most covered in the existing literature, it might have been useful if the author had a special section on practical repair and handling in a small library, i.e., minimum standards.

The administration chapter begins with a section on planning space layout, which, as the author points out, is affected by major concepts about the library, such as goals, parent organization, and funding. She devotes a section to the presentation of a budget, which has scarcely been covered before in the literature, and she discusses the question of loans and photocopying in the light of the new U.S. copyright law. The final part of this chapter is a series of useful hints on moving the library.

Not all the appendixes are as successful as they first appear. The sample acquisition policy is not really detailed enough, while the basic list of world atlases omits a major new atlas: Rand McNally's *The International Atlas* (2d ed., Chicago, 1976). The source lists are generally useful, as is the glossary of map terms. The bibliography is arranged alphabetically because of the referencing method and is very large and quite adequate for further research.

The author's style is relaxed and in many places amusing and/or flip, depending on one's point of view. To experienced map librarians, many of her jokes are almost apoc-

ryphal and help to emphasize the problems.

This text should supersede many of the earlier (and poorer) articles in the field and should be basic reading, for some time, for North American map librarians, whether experienced or beginners, and for nonmap librarians who want to know what is happening in the field.—*Joan Winearls, University of Toronto.*

***The Information Society: Issues and Answers.*** American Library Association's Presidential Commission for the 1977 Detroit Annual Conference. Edited with a Preface and Introduction by E. J. Josey and a Foreword by Clara Stanton Jones. A Neal-Schuman Professional Book. Phoenix, Ariz.: Oryx Press, 1978. 133p. \$11.95. LC 78-17708. ISBN 0-912700-16-5.

The ALA program in Detroit two summers ago attempted an ambitious departure from the usual Annual Conference format: an all-day, plenary, think/talk session devoted to an examination of some major problems librarians face in the emerging "post-industrial society."

Five major speakers followed in the wake of a keynote address by Norman Isaacs, a communications specialist from Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism (who harangued the gathering on those shortcomings of librarians—negativism, arrogance, self-serving behavior, absurd bureaucratic routines—he presumed must stand in the way of libraries becoming "working community centers," a function he saw as their higher calling).

OCLC director Fred Kilgour briefly reviewed past applications of technology to libraries, chiefly in cataloging, and invited participants to speculate on the fountain of beneficial effects about to shower forth as computer technology moved librarianship into "another of its great ages." New York State Senator Major Owens lambasted librarians for failing to respond positively to social change during the past twenty years and, with the White House Conference in mind, called for greater participation by librarians in the government's policy-making procedures in order to overcome public indifference.

Thomas Buckman, president of the Foun-

dation Center, treated information as a commodity and discussed the economic implications posed by new technology; Gerald Shields of the School of Information and Library Studies, SUNY Buffalo, invited analysis of the new role of librarians resulting from that technology; and Fay Blake of the School of Library Science, University of California at Berkeley, warned that public access to information must be determined, not by technology, but by librarians with a clear notion of their patrons' need.

Following each address, the audience of some 1,500 participants broke up into small group discussions and proceeded to kick around these and other topics. It was, as one participant said, "the world's largest reactor panel."

It is chiefly as a record of the event that publication of conference proceedings must be judged, and as a record this one is intelligently designed, well edited, and thorough. Feedback from the discussion groups is summarized and presented along with the texts of principal speeches; the editor's inclusion of reviews of literature prepared as handouts for the discussion sessions—and in some instances the review essays were more stimulating than the formal addresses themselves—gives the volume some claim to utility.

Predictably, although some of the fundamental concerns are shared by academic librarians (especially the identity crisis of the professional librarian caught up in a changing economic and technological environment), the public library context of the session, as well as its necessarily superficial and hortatory treatment of issues, made it—and makes its tardy report—of only incidental interest to the vast majority of readers of this journal.—*W. A. Moffett, State University of New York, College at Potsdam.*

Conroy, Barbara. ***Library Staff Development and Continuing Education: Principles and Practices.*** Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1978. 268p. \$17.50 U.S. and Canada; \$21 elsewhere. LC 78-18887. ISBN 0-87287-177-0.

This book provides an in-depth presentation of all aspects of establishing staff development and continuing education pro-