

Library Cooperation: Trends, Possibilities and Conditions. Proceedings of the Eighth Meeting of IATUL, Enschede, May 28–June 1, 1979. Edited by Nancy Fjallbrant. Goteborg, Sweden: IATUL, 1980. 223p. ISBN 91-7032-005-5.

This volume contains twenty-six papers on cooperation among institutions in various library activities although a few papers are single-institution oriented. The first and last papers are by officers of the British Library, with Maurice Line, director-general of the British Library Lending Division, starting off with "Is Cooperation a Good Thing?" and ending with a presentation by Michael Hill, director of the Science Reference Library of the British Library, entitled "To Cooperate or Not to Cooperate." Line, long a centralist, is doubtful, with his doubt being based on closely reasoned arguments based largely on assumptions rather than data. Hill draws his conclusions from various experiences that have uncovered pitfalls, struggles, and extensive effort required when institutions work together to attain a common benefit.

The standard cliché stating that "the papers are of uneven quality" certainly applies to this volume. Nevertheless, the majority of the papers contain useful observations and descriptions that would be helpful to anyone concerned with a cooperative venture. A half-dozen of the papers describe computer applications in different types of cooperative activity that will certainly be useful to those employing computers in obtaining common benefits rather than using traditional manual procedures. Of particular interest are two papers describing computerized networks, namely the PICA system in the Netherlands and the LIBRIS system in Sweden.

This volume does not resolve the multitudinous problems associated with library cooperation, nor is it a cooperator's vade mecum; indeed, such books do not exist. However, this book further contributes to an understanding of library cooperation and should be on the shelves of any library concerned with cooperation or having users concerned with cooperation.—*Frederick G. Kilgour, OCLC, Inc., Columbus, Ohio.*

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