are reasonably current. Some important topics such as downloading and use of microcomputers are discussed but in much less detail than current applications and interest require; there is a greater loss of currency in these areas than in the literature references.

The chapter entitled "Citation Indexing and Analysis" provides a disproportionately detailed discussion of Science Citation Index and other publications of the Institute for Scientific Information. The significance of the ISI publications would be better stated and explained in accordance with the treatment given Biological Abstracts and other important secondary publications. Kronick correctly emphasizes the value and place of citation indexing but the author's interest in the topic may be greater than the interest of the typical reader for whom the book is intended. The emphasis is also unfortunate in view of the book's publisher.

Kronick mentions the existence and role of libraries but in two instances he fails to mention how the library assists the researcher. In discussing reprints, Kronick mentions the practice of photocopying by readers and commercial sources for both copies and originals, but he does not mention the elaborate and formalized mechanisms existing among libraries for obtaining photocopies. Similarly, Kronick indirectly suggests that the library has a role in online literature searching but he does not adequately describe the complex service which a library's staff provides; in discussing a search conducted through an intermediary he does not link the intermediary with a library or information center.

Kronick writes gracefully and each chapter is a carefully delineated unit. More careful editing to delete occasional first person references would have given the text greater consistency. The librarian or information scientist will find a good deal of interesting information in this book both for its own value and for the assistance it provides in working with and instructing patrons. In all likelihood a book such as this one will find its way to library shelves rather than to the laboratory or office shelves of its intended audience.—Richard J. Dionne, Kline Science Library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

**ABSTRACTS**

The following abstracts are based on those prepared by the ERIC Clearinghouse of Information Resources, School of Education, Syracuse University.

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This paper describes the development and implementation of an automatic bibliographic facility and an electronic newsletter created for a special collection of aerospace and mechanical engineering monographs and articles at the University of Arizona. The project included the development of an online catalog, increasing the depth of bibliographic description, providing the beginnings of a comprehensive citation index for selected subjects, and developing an automatic bibliographic facility and local area electronic newsletter. Appendixes, which make up the major part of the report, comprise: (1) the full code listing for the search program, written in FORTRAN 4, which demonstrates the relative simplicity of the facility for developing bibliographies; (2) the help note written to aid the user in implementing a search; and (3) the full text of an electronic newsletter (the IGEL Bibliographer) developed to make all bibliographic searches available within the interested group. The sample newsletter includes short bibliographies on eigenvalues, geometric
nonlinearities, and composites. A source code listing of a single descriptor search facility is included as an addendum.


This study explores the changing role of the book in the future. The report draws on interviews with authors, publishers, booksellers, computer experts, librarians, scientists, educators, and scholars and on the experience of the Library of Congress staff. The first part, “The Culture of the Book: Today and Tomorrow,” includes sections on: “Books in our Lives,” “A Nation of Readers?,” “The Twin Menaces: Illiteracy and Aliteracy,” “Combining Technologies: The Adaptable Book,” and “Unexplored Opportunities.” Part Two, “A Manifold Program for a Massive Problem,” suggests numerous activities that citizens can undertake to improve reading habits with sections on families and homes, schools, libraries, churches, civic and fraternal organizations, businesses, book publishers and booksellers, newspapers and magazines, television and radio, labor unions, colleges and universities, cities and local communities, the states, and prisons and correctional institutions. A directory of organizations cited in this section is provided. The next two sections in Part II offer suggestions to Congress and the Executive Branch, and the report concludes with a brief review of initiatives undertaken at the Library of Congress.


This paper defines performance measurement as the clarification of objectives and standards, identification of key activities, data collection and analysis, and formative evaluation of services. It then examines some of the factors involved in using performance measurement to evaluate public services activities and analyzes performance measurement in three parts. The first part provides a general background on current evaluation theory. Building on this theory, the second part applies performance measurement to existing library activities through a model. The concluding section looks at the forces for and against public services performance measurements and future trends. The bibliography includes a selection of articles related to performance measurement; those relating to public services are grouped according to library functions (circulation, reference, etc.), and particularly useful methodologies or approaches are noted in the annotations.

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