verse profession” (p.82). A second educator, William Cameron, stresses the need for graduates who anticipate and plan for technological change, rather than simply react and adapt to it. Restructuring the curriculum, he suggests, will result in schools producing the kind of graduates who will keep librarianship vital and current.

Library educator Bernard Franckowiak opened the fourth theme session appropriately with a look at the future educational needs of librarians. His lengthy list of computer-based core courses and minimal competencies is impressive, but unrealistic. Graduates with those skills will not likely accept even a generous librarian salary when much more is available in business and industry. In his commentary Thomas Galvin points out the drab realities of present school budgets. Those realities suggest that schools cannot be all things to all people and that differentiation is probably necessary. Edwin Gleaves adds his personal experience with microcomputers to buttress Franckowiak’s computer emphasis for learning about new technologies and for teaching with new technologies.

Another closely related theme session dealt with the faculty and students of library schools. In his paper Michael Buckland argues that library faculty are forced to meet a double standard atypical of other faculty: wide practical experience as well as scholarly rigor and conceptual vision. They are not free to concentrate on traditional academic research that is the basis for status and promotion in the academic community, nor can they afford to concentrate exclusively on the practical and applied aspect of the subject. At the same time faculty face these pressures, the number of graduate students is dropping precipitously. Apparently, too, fewer libraries are requiring the M.L.S. degree for professional positions, a fact that runs contrary to general impressions.

In the concluding theme session Dean Robert Stueart of Simmons College discussed strategies for adapting to change. One obvious way is to recruit potentially better professionals who, as a result of their education, are “flexible, adaptable, capable of critical judgement and educated to face and discern the patterns of future change” (p.130). While that is undoubtedly true, the same could be said of any school training students for professional and managerial positions. And therein lies the problem—we are competing for the best and the brightest with schools that offer their graduates higher status, better incomes, greater psychic satisfaction, and more security. It is unlikely that the next few years will dramatically alter that picture.

Three concluding presentations summarize the conference from the perspective of an information scientist (Neal Kaske), a research library director (James Govan), and an educator (Charles Davis). Although differences in point of view are apparent, the summaries emphasize agreement rather than differences.

Most of the challenges and problems discussed at the conference are not new; nor are the suggested responses and solutions. The latter, to be sure, were fresher when discussed in 1983, but by the time they appeared in print those ideas had already received considerable public attention. What is significant is that the conference proceedings represent a general consensus among the leadership of the major library schools and research libraries in North America about the prospects for both in the near future. Since these are the very individuals and institutions that can shape that future, their comments deserve attention.—Nicholas C. Burckel, Washington University Libraries, St. Louis, Missouri.


The author describes the current state of library automation by tracing historically the progress of library functions such as acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, serials check-in, public catalog, interlibrary loan, and the retrieval search services. The beginnings of automation started with the IBM unit-record equipment found in early circulation systems and advanced to today’s sophisticated integrated online cata-
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log where the same bibliographic record can be used by several departments, thus eliminating the duplication of files. The development of library automation is put in the context of the total library environment. The author describes the influence of early in-house automation projects, the role of the bibliographic utilities, and, finally, the impact of today's commercial marketplace.

The impact of the bibliographic utilities—OCLC, RLIN, WLN, and UTLAS—is enormous, for it has virtually put a terminal in every library. The emphasis is on shared cataloging and interlibrary loan. Currently these large centralized systems have a problem in financing and thus must be very careful in selecting future areas for research and development. The trend is moving away from these large centralized systems to local or possibly statewide online networks. In the 1980s the greatest impact is coming from the commercial sector, microcomputers, and optical disks.

Since the ultimate goal of all library functions is to improve the quality of service, the author devotes two chapters to the public catalog. Through the years the catalog has changed its format. Originally it was in book form and then changed to the card catalog. In the late 1940s the book catalog reappeared due to advancement in technology and the decreasing costs of producing this kind of catalog. It was usually intended for multilibrary situations such as branch libraries, where the users could have access to the entire library holdings instead of branch holdings only. Next, the COM (Computer Output Microform) catalog in either fiche or film format appeared. By the late 1960s there was the emergence of the online catalog. Two essential features made the online catalog unique: (1) circulation information became available to the public, and (2) the patron could now actively interact with the catalog, thus requiring one to articulate the search strategy and to learn the mode of dialogue. The author demonstrates the advantages of multiple access points that an online catalog provides. He shows advantages of various searching techniques provided, such as keywords, truncation, Boolean logic, and others as well as providing examples of the dialogue used by specific commercial vendors.

Several chapters are devoted to choosing, purchasing, and implementing an automated system. Regardless of when the library decides to automate, the author contends that many of the same questions are asked. Recurring questions include when and what to automate, cost considerations, and who should be involved in the decision-making process—ranging from library staff to persons in the computer center, telecommunications, and purchasing. The chapter on selecting an integrated online system provides advice commonly found in the literature today.

Three chapters are devoted to the information retrieval services such as BRS, DIALOG, and SDC. Topics covered include origin and development, impact on print subscriptions, document delivery, vendors' pricing of their services, the issue of free versus fee service to the public, and the management of the service. Management topics include selecting the vendor, space, staffing, time, training, promotion, and evaluation of the service.

The author provides a good summary of the events that led up to the current state of the art. Those looking for future trends will not find them in this book. Nevertheless, the book presents a fair, in-depth picture of the development of library automation. It is descriptive, informative, well researched, and well written. Although much of the information and advice can be found elsewhere, the author provides in one volume a frame of reference to library automation.—Karen Stabler, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, New Orleans, Louisiana.


When the history of information retrieval and library automation is written, the 1960s may be called the Golden Age, the decade of rapid development in library automation. The 1970s, however, could...