

appendixes are conceived as a manual for those responsible for designing mass deacidification programs. (S. F. R.)

Wittmann, Reinhard. *Geschichte des deutschen Buchhandels.* München: C. H. Beck, 1991. 438p., 48 DM. (ISBN 3-406-35425-4).

The Gutenberg legacy notwithstanding, the history of the production, distribution, and consumption of books has not enjoyed the kind of lively attention in recent German scholarship that it has in France. Wittmann's absorbing book, although a survey written for the non-specialist, is an important and original contribution toward remedying this deficit. It covers the German book trade from the late Middle Ages to modern times and stresses the socioeconomic and political conditions that have shaped the relationships of publishers to authors and readers. It addresses topics ranging from paper-making technologies to governmental licensing and censorship practices to the growth of literacy (from two percent of the population in 1,500). Also included are sketches of major figures in the history of German publishing, such as Philipp Erasmus Reich, Johann Friedrich Cotta, and Julius Campe. (S. L.)

Academic Libraries: Achieving Excellence in Higher Education. Proceedings of the Sixth National Conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 12-14, 1992. Ed. Thomas Kirk. Chicago: ACRL, 1992. 498p. \$45.95 to ACRL members, otherwise \$49.95, acid-free. (ISBN 0-8389-7622-0).

In addition to the fifty-two contributed papers given at the 1992 ACRL conference, this collection includes the texts of the four "theme papers" (by Julian Bond, Paul Saffo, Catherine R. Stimpson, and W. David Penniman) and summaries—some substantial, too many only a sentence—of the program sessions. The contributed papers (comprising two-thirds of the text) lean heavily toward bibliographic instruction and public services (at ten papers each), with two

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each on bibliographic control and technology. Although most of the papers are about everyday problems and issues, the mix of approaches is eclectic, including case studies, empirical research, and politically focused presentations, as well as some theoretical papers. One would hope for more careful proofreading of future conference proceedings. (S. L.)

Histoire des bibliothèques françaises. IV: Les bibliothèques au XXe siècle, 1914-1990. Ed. Martine Poulain. Paris: Cercle de la Librairie-Promodis, 1992. 793p. 850 FFr. (ISBN 2-7654-0510-7).

With the publication of this volume on the twentieth century, a magnificent four-

volume history of French libraries is now complete. It is divided into large chronological sections, with separate chapters in each by over seventy writers (including many librarians) on subjects such as the Bibliothèque Nationale, municipal libraries, academic libraries, library architecture, sociology of reading, and documentation centers. Other chapters address le choc of new technologies and European perspectives at the dawn of the twenty-first century. This also happens to be a beautiful book, impeccably designed, with fascinating photographs, and other illustrative material. (S. L.)

Contributed by Stephen Lehmann, Susanne F. Roberts, and Bob Walther.