felt that all versions of a “work” should be linked so that if a patron searched one version, he or she would automatically find all the others available in the catalog. This is what we attempt to accomplish through the use of uniform titles and other specialized catalog entries. Martha M. Yee’s paper addressing these linkages is especially interesting and well conceived. She has great ideas about how to group information in a catalog so that the user can see the relationships, and she includes excellent examples to illustrate these ideas. Also especially noteworthy are Allyson Carlyle’s paper on indexes of search results and their organization and Michael Carpenter’s paper on the online catalog display of searches in which he argues for a more Web-type display, employing different fonts, etc., for helping the user see the various relationships.

The last part of the book contains six papers on the future of cataloging. I found this to be the most enjoyable section of the book. The chapters are concise and yet packed with information. Although one does not find the answers to the cataloging problems of the future here, one does find many thought-provoking discussions on the future of cataloging. Topics covered include: putting the URLs in the authority file; providing access to “virtual collections”; providing a subject structure to the Web; and revising AACR2. The paper by Maurice J. Freedman on the philosophy of cataloging was especially insightful and clearly written. John D. Byrum Jr’s paper, which offers some important thoughts on certain cataloging rules that should be revised, and Marcia J. Bates’s paper on the Web were especially stimulating, and both included many pertinent examples.

Overall, I was quite pleased with this book. I found it to be well conceived, clearly written, and thought provoking. In fact, I was musing over the concepts so much that I even found myself asking my friends questions as we lay together on the beach. “How would you want an index of a famous author ordered?” “Should the catalog display the author’s name as an added entry differently from his name as a main entry in the index?” Reading this book really made me aware of the philosophical underpinnings of many cataloging concepts and made me question some of the cataloging rules that I have always just accepted. It made me question and it made me think, and that’s always good.

I’m going back to the beach later this summer. I’ll probably bring a novel this time. I just hope it’s as thought provoking as this book.—Isabel del Carmen Quintana, Harvard University.


Inventing the Future, sequel to Into the Future by the same authors, is a compact book that reads as a call to arms for librarians—who wish to stay relevant—to change the way they approach their work. The authors offer no “utopian fantasies”; instead, they assume a world where print and paper will exist but argue that information technology will be the core technology in the library’s future. The authors
reason that the most important question before us is the one that asks what we are to do with this technology. They find the answer in a work environment that is a learning organization. The book is highly readable (with wonderful chapter-head quotations), and it pulls no punches when it describes what librarians need to do to survive.

In the early chapters, they build a case for why we must change our ways: Librarians do not evaluate services; we lack a user focus and do not understand (nor care) how people use libraries; we believe too often that size determines quality; we engage only in incremental change and ignore long-range planning; and we do not address the issue of library nonuse by faculty and graduate students. Many of these critiques ring true, though some are too sweeping, which is not surprising given the nature of this work. It succeeds in being thought provoking and provides an easy segue into the chapters that discuss how we can find our way into the future.

Libraries’ future, the authors argue, is dependent on them becoming learning organizations, not knowing organizations. Knowing organizations know there is only one way to get something done, but this is not the case with the learning organization. For my money, one of the beauties of this book is that it is able to put into crisp, clear language the philosophy of the learning organization, and especially the ideas of Peter Senge. The need for a vision and the need to integrate that vision with strategy, values, and culture are fleshed out. Use appendices are included.

Perhaps the book’s most powerful sections are those that revisit some of the critiques made upon librarians, such as our attachment to the MARC record and LCSH, the fact that we index citations and not ideas and that our OPACs are generally poorly designed. Parallels are drawn to recent technologies (such as the Web) to show the direction in which we should be headed. Though the sections on searching the Web are perhaps not critical enough, they point out that Web search engines have improved and that people enjoy using them; there is much we can learn from them. Librarians must begin to deliver added value, rethink our access tools, develop intelligent databases, and redesign our organizations.

For libraries starting to deal with change, this book is required reading. It champions the learning library and in so doing provides a pithy introduction to that philosophy enhanced by the inclusion of specific examples (although it may be too basic for librarians already on the road toward the learning library). The book’s other strong feature is that it raises issues that librarians might not be comfortable addressing. The authors argue that we must face these issues or face the consequences.—Ed Tallent, Boston College.


It would appear that plagiarism is currently something of a growth industry; as access to electronic databases, convention-flaunting ‘zines on the Web, and academic writing centers have been added to older opportunities such as “term paper mills,” fraternity houses’ caches of previously submitted papers, and “research assistance” providers. These changes have attracted an increasing amount of attention recently from interested commentators. Of the two dozen contributions presented in this volume, most have been prepared by academics who either are faculty members in English departments or administer collegiate “writing centers.” A copyright lawyer, an editor, and scholars from other disciplines also contributed their perspectives. Likewise, there are a variety of analytical approaches to examining the phenomenon: a content analysis of writing instruction textbooks, historical studies of