

2. Good library programs are the result of leadership.

Granted that these conclusions are valid, anyone who has observed the state library scene for the last decade or so must raise an inevitable question. With all of the rhetoric about the central role of the state library and its leadership functions, why haven't more good state library programs developed? Are we lacking in will or leadership or both?

In addition to the substantial questions which it answers and raises, the study includes a number of notable features. The chapter on "Agencies and the Policy Process" is an excellent manual on profitable political activity. Also, Alex Ladenson's essay included in the appendix on "The Role of State Government in the Establishment, Promotion and Support of Public Libraries" is a very useful survey.

A valuable study and a refreshing departure from the usual efforts in this field which are over-larded with useless statistics and short on meaningful conclusions.—*F. William Summers, Graduate Library School, University of South Carolina*

John B. Corbin. **A Technical Services Manual for Small Libraries.** Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1971. 206p.

In *A Technical Services Manual for Small Libraries* by John B. Corbin, Scarecrow Press, 1971, Corbin attempts to describe technical service routines and practices in "small- to medium-sized libraries (college, school, public, or special)" for the benefit of inexperienced librarians assigned the task of organizing and managing a technical service operation. Since "small" is nowhere defined, and since college, public, school, and special libraries vary radically in function, size, and populations served, the book manages to fall neatly between several stools. Corbin seems most comfortable in describing techniques appropriate to public libraries, and is aware of procedures useful to college libraries of modest aims; the book is of little use to special or school libraries. It might more appropriately have been titled *Helpful Hints for Planning and Managing Technical Service Operations in Small Public or College Libraries*.

Corbin devotes time to describing the

nature of work in acquisition and cataloging, and requirements for space, equipment, and desirable staff traits for technical service librarians. Curiously, although acquisitions and cataloging functions, and book preparation procedures are examined in some detail, no attempt is made to describe bindery or prebindery procedures.

After chapters on Organization, Selection, Acquisitions, Classification and Cataloging, Preparation of Catalog and Shelf List Cards, and Final Preparation of Materials, the last chapter concerns itself with Special Problems in Technical Services Work. These problems are work simplification, precataloging and reclassifying, centralized processing, preprocessing, and automation and mechanization.

The selected bibliography of basic sources is one of the more useful features of the book. However, whether Haines' *Living With Books* has practical applications today is debatable; *The National Union Catalog* is most likely to be required in affluent college libraries; Robert Casey's *Punched Cards*—\$20.00 for one chapter—seems a dubious choice, and Tauber's *Technical Services in Libraries* is seriously out of date. The most remarkable omission is Dougherty and Heinritz's *Scientific Management of Library Operations*, a fundamental text for organizing routines in libraries.

Corbin describes established techniques, well known to experienced librarians and, for the most part, already described elsewhere in the literature. However, the techniques discussed are clearly and carefully described. The book could thus be of some help to neophytes in the profession if the texts in Corbin's bibliography are not at hand.

Physically, this is one of the characteristically unattractive but sturdy books published by Scarecrow Press, photo-reduced from an accurately typed manuscript. (Oh, yes, on page 117, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* is by Edward, not Albert Albee.)

Corbin's book is not a significant addition to the literature of library management. It is recommended only for those libraries attempting to collect all books on librarianship.—*David E. Pownall, Hofstra University*