

the volume succeeds admirably. The publication would have been of greater value, however, if the institute had also been convened to produce some sort of unified blueprint for action. The problems confronting users of nonbook materials and the need for an effective solution to these problems have been effectively documented; what is needed now is a directive on what steps must be taken to bring order out of bibliographic confusion. If there was any hope that the institute would produce such a directive, this hope does not appear to have been met.—*Cathleen Flanagan, Graduate School of Library Science, University of Illinois.*

Kent, Allen and Lancour, Harold, ed.
Copyright: Current Viewpoints on History, Laws, Legislation. New York: R. R. Bowker, 1972. \$11.95.

The Copyright Act of 1909, though frequently amended, was constructed for an archaic era of communications. Attempts to write a comprehensive revision of domestic copyright legislation since 1956 have been constantly interrupted by one innovation after another in information handling and word processing. Although copyright legislation is based on a Constitutional policy, the efforts at revision have had to focus on difficult practical issues of the rights of various parties in the chain of diffusion of knowledge and the vested interests and practices of many segments of the information industry, including, of course, libraries.

The issues in copyright application and revision are complex and the literature concerning them vast, starting in recent times with thirty-five studies commissioned by the Copyright Office in the late 1950s. It is helpful, therefore, to have at least the key facts of copyright and of issues in revision affecting libraries brought together in one place. This was done recently in a series of short essays in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*. The book here reviewed is a reprint of that material. The presentation is sound, but constrained by the limitations of space and the purpose of the *Encyclopedia*.

Unfortunately, the essays are unevenly developed. Some are scholarly, some are rhetorical, some are dense, and some are

light and inflated. Throughout there is a considerable redundancy, and lack of balance. Nearly one-third of the book's 125 pages are devoted to a highly detailed discussion of the viewpoint of a computer scientist, including a ten-page uncritical bibliography of writings long and short on this aspect of the copyright issue—everything you wanted to know about the literature of computers and copyright and wished you had never asked! Add to that the pages that give the text of the two international copyright agreements (good for reference but out of place in the midst of a series of short essays) and nearly one-half of the text is used up.

The short piece on the publisher's point of view by Curtis Benjamin is merely a re-statement of the major provisions of the Copyright Act (given in another part of the volume in the text of the law), and of the problem area of its applications. There is no point of view at all. Charles Gosnell and Dan Lacy, long active in trying to bring order into the tangle, make their usual well-styled and cogent presentations on the librarian's point of view and the history of revision. The sections on legal implications by Abe Goldman and on copyright and the public interest by Lyman Patterson are superb and meaty, and right on the mark, particularly in the analysis of the irrelevance of the historical roots of copyright to today's social and technological environment.

In short, the information in this book is basic and good, and in some places brilliant. But the facts are too often repeated, the details of the key issues are lost in uneven style of presentation of the various views. Overall, the book is not worth the \$11.95 price.—*Russell Shank, Director of Libraries, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.*

Coughlin, Robert E.; Taieb, Francoise; and Stevens, Benjamin H. **Urban Analysis for Branch Library System Planning.** Greenwood, 1972, 167p.

Public library planners for over three decades have functioned with several basic assumptions regarding library facility location as it relates to maximum effective usage. These planning assumptions include