

Ayres, F. H., and Hall, J., eds. *Information Services in University Libraries: Proceedings of a SCONUL Exchange of Experience Seminar on Information Services in University Libraries Held at the University of Bradford from the 17th to the 19th of December 1973*. London: SCONUL, 1974. 214p. £2.25 (Order from: SCONUL Secretariat, c/o The Library, School of Oriental & African Studies, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HP, England.)

This book includes the proceedings of a seminar held at the University of Bradford in December 1973. The seminar centered on the emergence of information services in British universities and polytechnic institutions. The papers deal primarily with the state-of-the-art situations, but there is some concern with future developments and the evolving needs of library users.

The twelve papers included were given both by librarians and representatives of subject disciplines. The central theme shows how information services are beginning to be an integral part of British academic libraries. A point which is noted throughout is that there is not one model of service which will fit all institutions. Both computerized and manual services are needed, and services must be provided in the library as well as outside of it. Each institution must develop a variety of services which most fully serve the needs of its patrons. The library should be considered an instrument of communication, not an end in itself.

Information services in this book refer mainly to computerized retrieval systems. The range of coverage of the services by subject and time span is more limited than similar American services. This impression may be due to the fact that the meeting was held in 1973. Developments in the past two years have been significant. It is evident from these papers that public service in British academic institutions is not as fully developed as it is in American libraries.

Computer-based services are only one aspect of the larger problem of information services. The first priority should be to determine the needs and then ascertain which type or types of services best meet the

needs. Cost effectiveness must be a part of the consideration.

There is a clear distinction made in several cases between information services and reader service. Information service is more current awareness while reader service is information and self-help guidance. The initiation of information services often seemed to unleash latent demands for more service.

One of the most valuable contributions in the book is the "Survey of Information Services Provided by British University Libraries, 1973." The survey lists most British academic institutions and includes information on staff, reference services, manual current awareness services, computer-based information services, and publications. This listing provides a good overview of information service activities.

Any set of proceedings begins with the disadvantage of being dated before it is published and presenting papers which were prepared for oral presentation converted to a written format. The editorial work in this case has been thorough, and the material has a natural flow.

One of the unfortunate shortcomings of the collection is that there were no conclusions drawn either in the individual papers or based on the total presentation. It is good to know what is going on, but it is better to evaluate the activities than to accept them at face value.—Irene Braden Hoadley, Texas A & M University Library, College Station.

Oboler, Eli M. *Fear of the Word: Censorship and Sex*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1974. 362p. \$10.00. (74-6492). (ISBN 0-8108-0724-6).

*Fear of the Word* is an inquiry into the "whole complex of causes, of sources, of the origins of censorship" and devotes itself primarily to the censorship of written statements concerning the sexual life of men. It attempts to answer the question: "Why are men afraid of certain words, even though the behavior they denote is generally accepted?"

Oboler, librarian of Idaho State University and a leader in intellectual freedom activities of the American Library Association, has attempted to do this through an

examination of linguistics, anthropology, and theology, with some additional research in history, law, morals, ethics, aesthetics, general philosophy, sociology, psychology, and related fields. His chief objective was to demonstrate that censorship has no basis in reason and that it is "neither essential nor inevitable for man's progress and well-being."

Beginning with the taboos of early civilizations, he traces the history of sex censorship through Hellenism and Stoicism, the Judeo-Christian tradition, and Puritanism to modern-day America and the 1970 Report of the U.S. Commission on Obscenity and Pornography (COP). *Fear of the Word* uses copiously the quotations of contemporaries to reveal the causes of, the reasons against, and the ineffectiveness of censorship since the creation of written language. One chapter, "The Psychology of Repression," discusses the psychobiology of the censor. Others deal with critics as censors, communities as censors, librarians as censors, the law as a censor, and the U.S. Supreme Court as a censor. It concludes with an analysis of the social and political implications of the COP report and with some interesting speculations about its future impact.

After some extensive struggling with the subject, Oboler concludes with this answer to his original question about the fear of certain words: Since the beginning of time the word has been identified with deity and, therefore, is a sacred and fearful object. Although there is, undoubtedly, general agreement among librarians about the inefficacy and undesirability of censorship, not all will choose to accept this explanation for it, solely on the basis of the evidence which he has presented in this volume. It is, however, a good compendium of quotations on sex censorship and an adequate general survey of this topic.—*Dorothy Bendix, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Library Science, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

Foreman, Lewis. *Systematic Discography*. Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books and Clive Bingley, 1974. 144p. \$9.50. (74-8463). (ISBN 0-208-01197-8).

The author, a member of the faculty of the College of Librarianship at Aber-

ystwyth, Wales, has provided us with a thorough and handy addition to the meager literature concerned with the discographical art. As a matter of surprising fact, this volume is the first comprehensive guide to discographical compilation. Mr. Foreman candidly states in the introduction that there is as yet no codification of the rules for the compilation of discographies. There are but the examples which actual discographies themselves provide, but nothing hard and fast. Therefore, Mr. Foreman wisely eschews offering anything other than optional solutions from which the discographer may choose.

The work begins with a very succinct history of sound recording and the early applications of this technology. Next, Mr. Foreman discusses a number of the factors, both legal and mechanical, which bear upon the preservation (and reissuing) of recorded materials. The author then takes up the nature of discography and makes clear its relationship to bibliography in all its forms, e.g., analytical, descriptive, systematic, etc. He goes deeply into methods of grading the sonic qualities of the items included in discographies. In the chapter titled "Practical Discography," the author addresses himself to the problems of defining and limiting the scope of the work to be undertaken and the actual collection and assembly of discographical information. Later chapters take up problems in formulation of the entry, elements for inclusion, typographical style and abbreviations (with many examples), methods of arrangement (e.g., alphabetical, classified, chronological, etc.), examples of select discographies, data processing, and bibliographic control.

The remaining chapters are lists of dealers in out-of-print materials, unusual recording companies and labels, journals and reviewing media, and some select discographies. Following the excellent bibliography are, as an appendix, excerpts from R. D. Darrell's "Gramophone Shop Encyclopedia of Recorded Music," and the index.

Mr. Foreman's little volume recommends itself as a *vade mecum* to all aspiring discographers and makes excellent reading not only for music librarians not thus engaged but also for the disc collector. His discussions, for example, on the relative merits of the *Gramophone* magazine, compared to