

was thus, as Miksa says, "a reporter to the world of culture on the progress of the library movement." Although he appeared in such diverse publications as the *Boston Daily Advertiser* and the *North American Review*, his two principal outlets were the *Nation* and the *Library Journal*. He joined in establishing the latter in 1876 and participated in its editorship continuously from the beginning to October 1893. With its establishment, he was able to speak more directly to librarians, and his writings reflect the different audiences that they addressed.

Cutter's letter accepting the Boston Athenaeum headship includes his rationale for his extensive writing outside the library field: "Nothing freshens a man's ideas so much, preserves him from sinking into a mere drudge, or becoming a man with one idea and running in a rut, as writing on some subject a little removed from his ordinary labors."

Cutter wrote well whatever his subject and intended audience, pursuing a wide variety of scholarly endeavors. Wit and irony flourish in his writings, often giving them what might be called "the Cutter edge." In the *Nation* of July 27, 1876, commenting on the upcoming Philadelphia convention of librarians—referring back to the 1853 meeting, and perhaps taking a sly poke at a number of the leading librarians who were holding aloof from the meeting—he notes, "Frequent conventions may become wearisome, but one every twenty-three years can certainly be endured by the most indifferent of the profession." In his "Common Sense in Libraries," his 1889 presidential address to the American Library Association, he offers a definition: "But if I must be explicit, I will say common sense is my sense; other people's sense, when it differs from mine, is little more than nonsense."

At the end of the volume, the bibliographic sources about Cutter cover a meager two pages and few of them deal exclusively with Cutter. As Miksa points out, there is still work to be done. More of Cutter's anonymous writings remain to be identified, and an analysis of his total influence on librarianship is to be made. Miksa himself is probably best prepared to do it. I hope he will.—Helen W. Tuttle, Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services,

Princeton University Library, Princeton, New Jersey.

Scholz, William H. "Computer-based Circulation Systems—A Current Review and Evaluation," *Library Technology Reports* 13:231-325 (May 1977). (\$40.00 for single issue, available from American Library Assn., 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.)

Dranov, Paula. *Automated Library Circulation Systems, 1977-78*. White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, Inc., 1977. 102p. \$24.50. LC 77-7382. ISBN 0-914236-10-5.

Many libraries are about to embark on the automation of their circulation operations, the subject of these two publications. The *Library Technology Reports* study is neither authoritative nor worth its purchase price. The work is purported to be an update on the excellent July/September 1976 report by Barbara Markuson. In fact, 20 percent of the volume is devoted to the history of computers and automation in libraries—topics with excellent treatment elsewhere.

The product descriptions read as if they were taken directly from the vendors' literature, and no firsthand experiences on the operations of the systems are reported. The most serious defects of this issue of *Library Technology Reports* are the lack of an index and lack of any citations to the extensive literature in this field. The publication appears to be the product of the author's knowledge of the field and draws on little from practitioners in the field.

The study by Paula Dranov, however, has both an excellent index and makes knowledgeable use of the literature in the field. A selective bibliography is supplied.

The circulation systems covered in Dranov's volume include both "off the shelf" systems and those where the library will have to do much of its own software production. This volume gives one an excellent overview of existing systems and those in the developmental stage.

The treatment on the cost of such systems is weak in both studies, though Dranov's is the stronger of the two. This issue could be developed more completely by having all the vendors submit bids for the installation

of a system in a model library. Only then would cost figures have any meaning. The comments of customers of these systems are of little value because, as Dranov states, "As things stand today, the only system in operation long enough to be fairly judged is the LIBS 100 from C. L. Systems, Inc., of Newtonville, Mass." Almost all other systems have only one or two customers with special vendor relationships.

I would recommend the purchase of Paula Dranov's work to anyone with a mild interest in automating circulation, for it has a great deal of valuable information. Anyone who plans to purchase a system should also purchase the *Library Technology Reports* issue for the small amount of additional information to be gained. If you are going to spend \$100,000 on a system for circulation, the additional forty dollars may be a worthwhile investment.—Edmond A. Menegaux, Executive Director, South Central Research Library Council, Ithaca, New York.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, with Belli, Donna.

*Minorities and Women: A Guide to Reference Literature in the Social Sciences.* Los Angeles: Reference Service Press, 1977. 349p. \$19.50. LC 76-53061. ISBN 0-918276-01-2. (Order from Reference Service Press, 9023 Alcott St., Suite 201, Los Angeles, CA 90035.)

McKee, Kathleen Burke. *Women's Studies: A Guide to Reference Sources.* With a Supplement on Feminist Serials in the University of Connecticut's Alternative Press Collection, by Joanne V. Akeroyd. With the assistance of B. McIlvaine, Government Publications Department. Bibliography Series, Number 6. Storrs, Conn.: University of Connecticut Library, 1977. 112p. \$5.00 (prepaid). (Order from Acquisitions Department, University of Connecticut Library, Storrs, CT 06268.)

In recent years there has been growing interest in ethnic affairs and in women's studies. Comprehensive guides to reference sources in these areas, however, have been lacking. Two recently published bibliographies together help fill this gap, each complementing the other.

*Minorities and Women* describes over 800 reference books related to women, American Indians, Asian Americans, black Ameri-

cans, Spanish Americans, and other minority groups in America. One section of "Information Sources" is presented in chapters by form (fact books, biographies, documentary sources, directories, and statistical materials), with entries in each chapter arranged by author under women or the minority groups. A second section of "Citation Sources" (bibliographies, abstracts, indexes, catalogs, guides to the literature, etc.) is presented in chapters by group and listed alphabetically by title. For each item, complete bibliographic information plus a descriptive annotation detailing purpose, scope, arrangement, special features, and publication history is given. Author, title, and subject indexes provide easy access to all publications cited.

Schlachter and Belli intend their guide to fill a bibliographic gap in reference literature, and they appear to succeed. Other reference works are available for individual minorities but differ in format and scope or need updating. Schlachter and Belli provide in-depth, current reference sources for several minorities together in one convenient volume. This reviewer was satisfied that their coverage is exhaustive when a spot check for two dozen recent, relevant works uncovered no omissions.

While their sections on women also are commendably thorough, these could have been published as a separate and expanded volume. Particularly for women's studies, the intentionally restrictive scope of *Minorities and Women* requires consultation of other guides. Possibly because their subject range is broad, the authors exclude several categories of publications, including those dealing primarily or exclusively with society in general; publications after mid-1976; reference materials in foreign languages and/or emphasizing areas outside of the United States; plus noncataloged materials, e.g., pamphlet-like publications of sixty pages or less.

A reference tool for women's materials filling most of these gaps is *Women's Studies: A Guide to Reference Sources*, by Kathleen Burke McKee. Based on the collection of the University of Connecticut Library, Storrs, it will be useful to librarians and researchers at other institutions. Items are presented by type of publication and are