

all who either contemplate or are already heavily engaged in the stimulating but sometimes frustrating venture of attempting to preserve "history warm."—*Alice M. Hoffman, Pennsylvania State University, King of Prussia Graduate Center.*

**Prospects for Change in Bibliographic Control.** Proceedings of the Thirty-eighth Annual Conference of the Graduate Library School, November 8-9, 1976. Edited by Abraham Bookstein, Herman H. Fussler, and Helen F. Schmierer. The University of Chicago Studies in Library Science. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977. 138p. \$7.50. LC 77-23767. ISBN 0-226-06365-8.

As usual, the annual conference of the University of Chicago Graduate Library School results in a high-powered overview of the chosen topic. The title of the thirty-eighth conference should serve as a cautionary note: these proceedings should be read without delay, since the pace of change

threatens to make much of the content passé in short order.

Three of the seven papers are largely factual, informative, and nonprovocative state-of-the-art presentations. "Technological Foundations for Bibliographic Control Systems," by Ronald L. Wigington and Charles N. Costakos, serves an important function for planners of bibliographic systems generally. The paper's scope—computer technology, communications technology, reprography, and software—along with its lucid exposition and predictions of future trends makes it one of the most relevant and valuable pieces this reviewer has read for some time. (Another reason to read it: *most of the news is good!*)

Elaine Svenonius and Helen F. Schmierer write perceptively on recent work in the area of subject control within a neatly organized framework encompassing universal schemes (LC and Dewey classification and LC subject headings), natural language indexing, indexing vocabulary convertibility,



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and string indexing languages. Regrettably, they chose not to use this forum for the expression of judgmental viewpoints that might help direct the information community's allocation of resources for subject analysis.

Henriette Avram, before finishing with a remarkably pithy summary of the conference, reviews developments (mostly post-1960) in production and dissemination of bibliographic data, with a view toward a multifaceted bibliographic network. In four paragraphs at the conclusion of the review (p.127-28) she poses some of the most difficult and important problems now facing network planners. (In the seventeen pages of her contribution, Avram introduces thirty-five different initialisms and acronyms, using them a total of 281 times, thus qualifying her as a finalist in the World Acronymic Competitive Knockout Year [WACKY].)

Herman H. Fussler and Karl Kocher's introductory outline of "contemporary issues" provides a convenient framework for the papers that follow but can be skipped by anyone reasonably *au courant* with the bibliographic scene.

In a lengthy presentation entitled "Theory of Bibliographic Control in Libraries," Doralyn J. Hickey deals in a confusing and (to this reviewer) sterile manner with a hodgepodge analysis of historic American practice in bibliography and the development of library catalogs. A series of questions that leads to a "Prolegomena to a Theory of Bibliographic Control," although couched in high-sounding terminology, constitutes further ammunition for the unproductive and seemingly endless haggling in some circles about how many bibliographic angels can or should dance on the head of a single pin. Hickey's paper is a superb illustration of the difficulty encountered in developing a theoretical structure applicable to an essentially pragmatic situation, one that can be better analyzed as a set of public policy problems in the allocation of resources rather than treated as an area for philosophical speculation.

In contrast to Hickey, Warren J. Haas' discourse on "Organization Structures to Meet Future Bibliographic Requirements" is precisely on target in its delineation of

bibliographic ends and means, taking off from the judgment that one of our major handicaps is "the lack of an effective . . . capacity to develop a national strategy for bibliographic control." His concluding proposal for a cooperative project on the part of the Library of Congress and the Association of Research Libraries to formulate and test "methods for planning and assessing the performance of our bibliographic mechanisms" deserves attention in spite of its aura of creaky machinery and elitist control.

In what is certainly the most elegant and most pleasurable to read of the conference papers, S. Michael Malinconico steps through some highlights of cultural and bibliographic history as a prelude to, and as a basis for, an examination of the relationship between computer-based technology, the purposes of bibliothecal activity, and the standards under which it is (or is not) performed. Malinconico finishes with an eloquent—although debatable—plea for adherence to the concept of main entry. The paper unfortunately stops short of addressing the topic that lies for this reviewer (and, one would expect, for Malinconico) at the heart of the matter: authority control of access points in bibliographic files.—*Joseph A. Rosenthal, University of California, Berkeley.*

#### CORRECTION

The Institute for Scientific Information has called our attention to errors in the review of Eugene Garfield's *Essays of an Information Scientist*, which appeared in the March 1978 issue, pages 148 and 150.

ISI points out that Eugene Garfield is more than "currently active in ISI," he is the founder, president, and its board chairman. Further, Dr. Garfield is not president of Information International, Inc. (III), and has never been associated in any capacity with any firm with this or a similar name. Dr. Garfield was never president of ASIS or ADI. He served on the Council of that organization and was president of the Information Industry Association (IIA).

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The author of the review and the editor regret these errors and offer their apologies to Dr. Garfield and ISI.