Busha, Charles H., and Harter, Stephen P. *Research Methods in Librarianship: Techniques and Interpretation.* New York: Academic Pr., 1980. 417p. $ 19.50. LC 79-8864. ISBN 0-12-147550-6.

This book is a good one, designed for use as a research-methods textbook in library school courses and as a handbook for practicing professionals who are engaged in research projects or in the review of them. Beyond the introduction to research and the scientific method, the book is set up in three main parts. The first, methods of research, considers in some detail survey research, historical research, and operations research. Each section contains a description of the research techniques applicable to the method, the pitfalls surrounding the particular method, and a description of some of the completed research projects in librarianship that serve as examples of the particular method being discussed.

The chapter on survey research is the most comprehensive. The authors introduce the issues of populations and samples, offer comments on the advantages and disadvantages of the questionnaire, and introduce types of questions that are included in questionnaires. Good advice is offered on the preparation of a questionnaire and on the scaling of the responses.

In the chapter on historical research, the authors describe the search for evidence undertaken by the historian. They analyze and classify sources according to whether they are primary or secondary and classify types of records that are considered primary sources.

Also included in the first section are short discussions on the case-study method, library-user studies, evaluation research, content analysis, community surveys, and the Delphi method.

The second part of the book introduces descriptive and inferential statistics. The explanations are clear and concise and are welcome in this guide to library research. The final section of the book offers advice on the computer and the calculator as aids to research, on writing a research proposal, and on writing a research report.

Good textbooks enhance the development of librarianship. The profession indeed will be well served by this excellent text on research methods in librarianship.—*Beverly P. Lynch, University of Illinois, Chicago Circle.*

Library Lit. 10—The Best of 1979. Edited by Bill Katz. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1980. 512p. $12. LC 78-154842. ISBN 0-8108-1213-4.

Boring. What seemed like a new and exciting concept ten years ago is now old and faded. Perhaps that is just symptomatic of the transitory nature of our times.

Boring. The fact that there is still, despite a recent proliferation of specialized library journals, so little library literature that makes for stimulating reading on the part of the faithful reader is discouraging. It is hard to believe that Katz can really think that "a prudent reading of the past ten years will show that there is no more stimulating, no more exciting profession than being a librarian" (p. vi).

Boring. The nine articles on libraries and librarians, the eight articles on technical services/readers' services, the seven articles on communication and education, and the six articles on the social perogative that constitute the thirty articles selected by this year's panel of judges to represent the best of 1979 are indeed, for the most part, simply boring. Not one of those articles really catches the reader's imagination or stands out as one that will prove to be of enduring value.

Despite my obviously unfavorable attitude toward the series as a whole at this point and toward this particular volume, some comment on the particular volume is needed. Approximately half of the articles are either by, or are of potential interest to, academic librarians. Not bad and worth our attention on that score alone. Unfortunately, most of them (e.g., DeGennaro on "Library Administration and New Management Systems") appeared in journals that we all read regularly. What was of interest on first reading somehow doesn't always seem quite as exciting on rereading only a short while later. A few (e.g., Hickey on "The American Librarian's Dream: Full Bibliographic Control") are from more obscure sources that we might not normally encounter. It is helpful to have them brought to our attention here. A few, and