

used. He identifies and examines five questions: Who will pay? Who will have access? Who will profit? How will conflicts be resolved? and Who will provide what services and under what conditions? Obviously these are fundamental questions and the answers to them are illusive, but Compaine manages to capture the essential elements that should be considered. Wedgeworth and Cummings address some practical everyday matters and relate the focus of discussion to current problems in library service. Lacy's contribution is a strong postscript that reflects a clear awareness of some basic issues. For example, he states that, "Power is at the center of these questions—power: both its effective use and its equitable distribution." One can only nod in agreement after reading the preceding papers.

The second book carries an intriguing title and an outrageous price for such a slim volume of essays. It claims to be "one of the first statements in what is expected to be a continuing debate of increasing importance in the area of the new communications technology." Most of the contributors are British academicians, theoreticians, or librarians, although two Americans are included in the group. They provide the reader with a rather uneven look at a topic that is at once provocative and perplexing. Nevertheless, some of the thirteen essays are worthy of one's time and attention. John M. Strawhorn, Maurice B. Line, Donald W. King, A. J. Meadows, and A. J. Kent all identify issues of substance and avoid dealing with trivial matters. Simply put, "The Future of the Printed Word" addresses the changes that are taking place in forms and methods of communication from traditional print on paper to the electronic transmission of words, while attempting to predict the implications of such change. The central theme is that the electronic dimension may have a profound effect on the dissemination of much of the information that traditionally has been published in ink on paper. How we manage the transition to new forms of communication is the question over which much debate will occur.

Librarians who wish to obtain a good perspective on the potential effects of recent developments in information technology will find these books useful. Of special value is the contribution that ALA and Carlton C. Rochell

have made to the literature of the topic through the publication of the NYU colloquium papers.—Richard A. Olsen, Rhode Island College, Providence.

Martin, Susan K. *Library Networks, 1981–82*. White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, 1981. 160p. \$29.50; \$24.50 softcover. LC 80-26710. ISBN 0-914236-55-5; 0-914236-66-0 softcover.

Library Networks, 1981–82 is a compendium of information written from the perspective of a professional active in systems planning, development, and implementation and a current member of the Research Libraries Group (RLG). The book comprises eleven chapters, ranging from "Networks for Libraries: An Evolving Resource" to "Implications of Machine-Readable Data" to "Network Organizations" to "Major Efforts" to "Networks and Libraries in the Years Ahead." The book's strength lies primarily in chapters 8, 9, and 10 in which Martin discusses the history of the national network movement, the technological elements of communicating, communications systems, systems analysis, standards, and the administration of libraries in the network environment.

I found the remainder of the book, however, to be sometimes inconsistent, many times in error, often aggravating, and generally failing to reflect the reality of networking that I have experienced in the past ten years.

The most serious problem with the book is Martin's misunderstanding of the nature of OCLC's membership and governance elements. On page 36 (among others) she states that when OCLC changed its organizational structure in 1977 it "became purely a network resource rather than a membership organization." This is simply not true since OCLC's Code of Regulations clearly defines the membership of OCLC as those general members that participate in the OCLC system, outlining their membership in the Users Council and their relationship to the Board of Trustees. Because OCLC continues to be a membership organization, its relationship with libraries is not becoming "more a vendor/customer relationship than a cooperative relationship" (page 36). This is an essential element to be considered when comparing cooperatives, and such error is disturbing in a major work.

Not only is Martin in error in these statements whenever OCLC is used as an example of some network development (and OCLC is the predominant example throughout the book), the nature of the analysis lacks the neutral tones used in describing other networks. While OCLC's longer history may have revealed problems (and solutions) that other cooperative activities have yet to experience, other networks have, in turn, their own strenuous history. One example of inconsistent comparison begins on page 34 in which concerns facing OCLC and RLG are raised. OCLC undergoes rather stern questioning on lack of replicability, lack of authority control, questionable database qualities, inadequate availability of local library data, the regularity of requiring original input cataloging, and delayed implementation of systems. RLG is queried only in the areas of rescheduling the database, the provision of patron access, and the menu of tasks yet to be undertaken. The same sort of stern questions, however, could be asked of RLG; for example, What are the implications of "limited" cooperative activities? Why are many RLG libraries pressing for continued involvement in OCLC? Why do many RLG libraries reportedly use only LC cataloging or that of a few selected libraries when the quality of the RLIN database is supposed to be exceptional? What are the capital problems that have forced institutional loans? Why has the database reconfiguration continually been delayed? What about the manner in which some granting agencies are tying continued grant support to membership in RLG—is this good marketing on RLG's part or something else? And so forth. These are the kinds of hard questions that could have been asked consistently throughout the book of all networking activities but were not. Consistency of comparison would have been especially appropriate in the chapters "Computer Utilities" and "Network Organizations." It would have been more effective in the chapter "Computer Utilities," for example, to delineate the key issues and then specifically compare the policies and practices of all network cooperatives on points such as the following: costs, governance, development schedules, modules, response time, computing equipment, capital availability, standards, duplicate records, and so forth.

In fact, the discussion of "networks" as distinct from "utilities" fails to deal with some of the essential problems and questions that still face administrators: the generation of sufficient capital to operate, the generation of capital to innovate, the difficulties of maintaining adequate training staff, ties to government and governing bodies, the financial and government relationships to utilities, increasing competitiveness among networks, and so forth.

The only chapter that might have spoken directly to such specific problems is chapter 5, "Network Organizations." The information contained here unfortunately reads like publicity blurbs from each of the networks in question, with no analytical assessment or discussion appearing. It is also a minor annoyance to find that while RLG and WLN are included as network organizations, OCLC is not, and neither is its activities in England included in the section "Networks throughout the World." In part, this confusion may result from the lack of specific enough terms for distinguishing networks such as OCLC and RLG from other operations ("utilities" being a

Back Order Problems?

We are tenacious at Book House. In our concern about your order, we continue to birdog it until we deliver the book or find it out-of-print. Only upon your instructions do we cancel. We call our program "Concerned Service" and it pays off for academic libraries throughout the U.S.A. Let us show you! For any book in print (U.S. and Canada), send your orders to the Book House.

Call Toll Free 800 - 248 - 1146
Michigan Customers Call Collect

the SAN 169-3859
**BOOK
HOUSE**

**JOBBERS SERVING LIBRARIES WITH
ANY BOOK IN PRINT SINCE 1962**
208 WEST CHICAGO STREET
JONESVILLE, MICHIGAN 49250

rather inadequate descriptive term), but it shows the same misunderstanding of the nature of OCLC as a cooperative activity as did the earlier incorrect statement on OCLC's membership.

As a result of not presenting a complete picture of problems facing networks today (such as complexities and developments), when Martin comes to the concluding chapter, "Networks and Libraries in the Years Ahead," she fails to include any mention of the increasingly important networks' competition for decreasing revenues, the implication of the difficulties of initiating development capital, governance in all cooperative activities, network linkage, and the implication of OCLC's recent governance management changes. These factors are as important in the years ahead as the growth of RLG and the diminishing role of the Library of Congress.

In conclusion, while I found many points of interest in this book, the errors of fact about OCLC, the absence of a consistently objective assessment of the major computer-based networks, the lack of analytical discussion of the regional or state networks, and general

unevenness of detail all result in confusion and misunderstanding for the uninformed and frustration for the more experienced.—
D. Kaye Capen, Iowa State University, Ames.

Advances in Librarianship, Volume 10. Ed. by Michael H. Harris. New York: Academic Pr., 1980. 268p. \$23. LC 79-88675. ISBN 0-12-785010-4.

Like recent volumes in this series, this volume of *Advances in Librarianship* is a mixed bag of longer essays on various aspects of contemporary librarianship. Despite the lack of any apparent unifying theme for the series, or the volume, both contain a useful examination of issues and ideas not readily available elsewhere. It is, and perhaps this is its chief virtue, one of the few library publications that offers space for relatively current and somewhat longish essays. It is a series, and a volume, that is difficult to review because of the disparate and uneven nature of the contributions. It is a series that academic librarians should probably examine regularly, and the present volume contains at least three essays of particular interest and value to academic librarians.

Axford's "Academic Library Management Studies: From Games to Leadership" is a critique of management science and the academic library with particular emphasis on the Association of Research Libraries' Office of Management Studies' Management Review and Analysis Program (MRAP) and, to a lesser degree, on the Pittsburgh collection study and the National Enquiry into Scholarly Communication. Like most of Axford's work this essay is provocative. His criticisms of MRAP are well thought out and, on reflection as an MRAP participant, I would agree that "the potential for the MRAP for improving academic library performance seems to be modest at best"; but at the same time I would point out that it has other values, especially in staff development, that Axford fails to recognize. On the other hand, his views that the Pittsburgh study, the National Enquiry, and the development of RLG/RLIN are likely to produce significant changes in the management of academic librarianship are largely speculative and seem somewhat naive.

Young's essay, "And Gladly Teach: Bibliographic Instruction and the Library," is among the few really critical examinations of

Heritage on Microfilm

Rare and out-of-print titles and documents on 35mm silver halide microfilm.

- French Books before 1601
- Scandinavian Culture
- 18th Century English Literature
- Victorian Fiction
- Literature of Folklore
- Hispanic Culture

Send for catalog and title information today.



GENERAL
MICROFILM
COMPANY

70 Coolidge Hill Road
Watertown, MA 02172
(617) 926-5557