

ularly useful to anyone who operates or plans to operate a fee-based information service. It should also be read by public, academic, and special librarians, however, as it explains exactly why people are willing to pay for some kinds of information even though others are available without charge. Furthermore, the book is delightfully calm in tone: unlike some of the literature in this field, it predicts the demise of no institution of any kind.—Haynes McMullen, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*.

Research on the Impact of a Computerized Circulation System on the Performance of a Large College Library. Part One: The Main Library. Report on National Science Foundation Grant no. IST 78-10821 for the period September 15, 1978—June 1, 1980. Prepared by Katherine A. Frohmborg and William A. Moffett. Order no. PB 81-199549. Oberlin, OH: Oberlin College Library, 1981. 89p. \$9.50 paper; \$3.50 microfiche.

This report, prepared to satisfy contractual requirements of the funder, the National Science Foundation, should not have been published in its present form. In terms of meaningful content there is only enough material for a journal article. For eighty-nine pages printed only on one side, with large type, wide margins, and amateurishly drawn graphs, a price tag of \$9.50 seems excessive.

Oberlin College used "the occasion of the introduction of an automated circulation system in 1978 to study certain measures of library performance." These measures include availability, building use, visits to the library, number of checkouts, required time to charge a book, and patron attitudes. These are not new measures, nor are the methods new. Paul Kantor, who served as a consultant to the study, has already published much of this material.

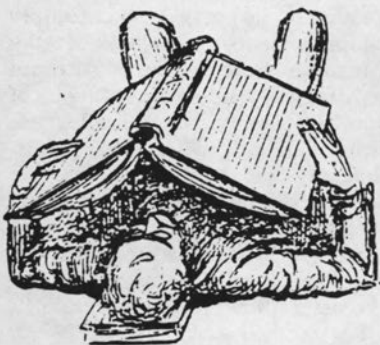
Treatment of the findings from the study is uneven. For example, chapter five includes a twenty-five-item questionnaire given to Oberlin students. The following chapter contains a very technical discussion of modeling variables including those from the questionnaire. Yet the responses from the questionnaire are not discussed until chapter eight, and then, only four of the questions are analyzed.

Basically the study found that availability and accessibility improved as a result of automation. Student's favorable attitudes toward the library declined with the introduction of the system but improved as checkout time decreased.—Ellen Altman, *University of Arizona, Tucson*.

Rink, Evald. *Technical Americana: A Checklist of Technical Publications Printed Before 1831*. Millwood, N.Y.: Kraus International Pubs., 1981. \$60. LC 81-4036. ISBN 0-527-75447-1.

This is a pioneer treatment of the subject and as such is an important reference work for those concerned with the early history of technology and industrial development in the United States. The 6,065 titles and editions are grouped chronologically within seventy-five subheadings. The subheadings are in turn gathered under twelve main headings: general works, technology, agriculture, crafts and trade, medical technology, military technology, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, manufacturing, mining and mineral production, sea transportation and inland transportation. The scope is restricted to books published in this country prior to 1831, both original works and reprints of British or translations of continental writers. It is a record of the literature of technology produced by American publishers for the use of Americans. The largest portion (85 percent) are nineteenth-century publications. The largest main heading is "Inland Transportation," which occupies one third of the work. "Agriculture" is the next largest with 14 percent.

The author explicitly states that this is not a bibliographical study of individual items, but an effort to make the publications listed "available to the users". Descriptions are therefore "limited to essential features sufficiently complete for their identification." They consist of a main entry, the title shortened where appropriate, and an imprint in a standardized form which gives place, printer or publisher, and date. The collation is in a library format. In some cases there is an additional note when the title information is not complete. Although thirty-four bibliographies are listed as references, each entry has only one bibliographical citation, preferably to an imprint bibliography such as Evans,



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Shipton, and Bristol's work with imprints through 1800, Shaw and Shoemaker's work on 1801-19 imprints, Shoemaker's for 1820-29; and Gale Cooper's for the year 1830. These provide direct access to the microform publications by the Readex Microprint Corporation.

The location of copies reflects the author's dependence on existing bibliographies and catalogs, particularly the *National Union Catalogue of Pre 1956 Imprints*. There is a single index in which names, titles of anonymous works, and subjects are arranged in one alphabet. The latter are in italics and upper case, respectively, the reference is to the item number. Unfortunately this sometimes results in a long string of numbers which must be laboriously checked.

A work of this kind presents the author with the difficult task of defining the scope of the work. Technical publications suggest a concept with blurred boundaries. Rink says, "The term 'technology' has been interpreted rather broadly, and the check list contains not only known works on various technologies, but also those which indicate the advo-

cacy and extent of the application of technological improvements, as well as the availability of products created by such applications." He then lists eleven "types of publications, frequently containing technological information," which he omits. Among them are: almanacs, city directories, and cookbooks, noting that bibliographies devoted to those subjects exist.

It is inescapable in an endeavor such as this that the author's perception of the subject will be the determining factor in setting its limits, just as it is inescapable that not everyone will be satisfied with his decisions. Bearing this in mind, Rink has made an excellent beginning with a subject which presents a number of interesting anomalies. "Literature promoting industrial development and manufactures, unless such publications contain specific information on the state of the industry or manufacture" is specifically omitted. Yet when it comes to "Agriculture" apparently no such limitation is imposed. Mathew Carey's *A View of the Ruinous Consequences of a Dependence on Foreign Markets for the Sale of the Great Staples of this Nation*, 1820,

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Tasks for Vegetation Science 4

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edited by Ernest R. Schockaert and Ian R. Ball

Developments in Hydrobiology, 6

This volume represents the Third International Symposium on the Biology of Turbellaria held at the Limburgs University Center, Belgium in August, 1980. Participants represented 17 countries and the presentations ranged from critical review papers to poster presentations of specialized research topics.

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is a work which could be classified as economics. A particularly unsatisfactory section, to this reviewer, is "Description and Travel." One would like to have known more about the basis on which the selection was made. It would appear that their promotional character was a determining factor as in the case of John Drayton's *A View of South Carolina as Respects Her Natural and Civil Concerns*, 1802. One wonders, then, at the omission of John Filson's *The Discovery Settlement and Present State of Kentucke*, 1784.

The subject clearly needs further definition. One of the functions of the collector and the bibliographer is to help define a field through assembling and organizing the literature of a subject. In this respect, Rink has made a notable contribution. His extensive treatment of both federal and state laws bearing on technological matters is one of the most valuable parts of the work. The large number of subheadings, seventy-five, may at first glance seem excessive, particularly when one notes that "General Works on Civil Engineering" has 3 items while "Canals" has 816. What this reveals is the difficulty of combining an ancient concept, canals, with a comparatively modern one, civil engineering. By dividing the subject into so many different parts we are shown what a difficult one it is to manage. Drugs as they apply to medicine are omitted, yet fertilizer as it applies to agriculture is included. What we have in Rink's work is an important step forward in the definition and organization of a body of literature that has not been tackled on this scale before. That it has weaknesses is to be expected, but it provides a point of departure which can be built upon with confidence.—*Thomas R. Adams, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.*

Tebbel, John. *A History of Book Publishing in the United States. Volume IV: The Great Change, 1940-1980*. New York & London: Bowker, 1981. 830p. \$37.50. LC 71-163903. ISBN 0-8352-0499-5.

On page 113 of this massive compendium of miscellaneous information on book publishing in the United States over the past forty years, the author tells a poignant story of Doubleday's valiant attempt to publish Eisenhower's *Crusade in Europe* with no

mistakes, only to find on publication a glaring error in the very first sentence. Reading through the next 600 pages of Tebbel's history, this story keeps coming to mind as facts familiar to the reader are misrepresented in the book. Few of the mistakes seem consequential, e.g., Hammond's Map Store is now located at 12 East 41st Street, not One East 43rd Street, New York (p.557); David Godine studied with Ray Nash while at Dartmouth, not after graduation (p.421); the famous Ulysses decision was in the thirties, not the sixties (p.695); the Peter Pauper Press (p.419) has yet to be reinstated as a working laboratory press at SUNY Purchase, but they do undermine the user's confidence in the accuracy of Tebbel's accounts of the unfamiliar.

The vast bulk of the work (perhaps three-quarters) is devoted to capsule histories of hundreds of publishing firms in the United States with greatest length devoted to the great firms, the corporate giants, the people who molded their success, and the internal corporate struggles which eventually determined their ownership and direction. Emphasis is given to the best-selling titles, if not the significant ones. The coverage is uneven, with little discrimination in choice of facts presented, but these histories often made diverting reading with their personal slant on the academic pedigree and idiosyncrasies of the principals and even the names of restaurants and clubs where significant publishing deals were consummated over lunch.

While virtually all of the information presented in the book is of interest to librarian and general reader alike, *The Great Change* is less a history than a collection of raw materials toward a history of book publishing in mid-twentieth-century America, with a natural emphasis on New York City.

Tebbel has relied too heavily upon the vertical files of Bowker and the pages of *Publishers Weekly* for this period to provide an adequate synthesis or to relate the course of publishing to the political, aesthetic, intellectual, or social trends of the period. The net has not been cast widely enough, many leads have not been pursued, and much should have been culled. In truth, the limited sources used could hardly have produced a synthesis—writing a history of book publishing from *Publishers Weekly* is rather like