Beyond this, however, the chief importance of the book is its timeliness. As library networks evolve beyond theory, the coordination of purchasing and processing may be one of the last tasks undertaken, but when it is tackled, the Colorado study will be invaluable in planning such operation. It is a welcome relief to have a research report appear while the findings are still useful.—*Donald Hendricks, Sam Houston State University.*

Scientific and Technical Communication: A Pressing National Problem and Recommendations for Its Solution. National Academy of Sciences-National Academy of Engineering. Washington, 1969. 322p.

The SATCOM report, as this work has now become known, is basically the report of a committee made up of representatives from both the government and private enterprise. Its charter was to examine the communication problems of both areas, in broad perspective, paying special attention to information activities, policies, relationships, etc., of private groups and organizations, and their interaction with federal agencies. Further, it was to make recommendations based on the present status and future needs of an effective national and international information system. The result acquits itself quite well.

Using the charter as a base, the report is divided into several parts: recommendations, state-of-the-art background, and the extension or explanation of the recommendations. Placing the recommendations in the beginning is very effective. The only weakness in format is the lack of an index.

The recommendations are presented in groups: those dealing with planning and coordination (establishment of a joint committee, leadership at the national level, shared responsibility, copyright legislation, standards); those concerning services for the user; those on classical services (abstracting, indexing, meetings); those on personal information communication; and finally, those involving research and experiments. In content the recommendations do not propose anything radically new. They are relatively broad and as a result lack force. For the first time, however, they do take into serious consideration both governmental and private information activities and strive for closer coordination and in some cases integration. Unlike some of its predecessors, this report also provides detail for each recommendation, resulting in cohesiveness.

The greatest contributions of the report are the state-of-the-art background chapters: "primary communications, the basic access services, consolidation and reprocessing, and new technologies and their impact." These chapters are well-written, imaginative compilations of both the major concepts and the literature. They are well documented and the selection appears to be excellent.

The report stresses the role of the professional societies, services to special user groups, coordination efforts in both government and private areas, and the participation of the whole community. The recommendations are well stated and firmly based, and the reader can see from whence they came through the documentation. The international scene is included, but the orientation is definitely national. There is a certain weakness in the lack of recommendations for implementation. They do recommend a Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Communication, but this appears more advisory than implementative. Anyone working in the information communication field will find something of interest in this report.—*Ann F. Painter, Indiana University.*

De wetenschappelijke bibliotheken in Nederland; programma voor een beleid op lange termijn. Netherlands. Rijkscommissie van advies inzake het bibliotheekwezen. 's-Gravenhage, Staatsuitgeverij, 1969. 72p. $1.25.

The important activities of the National Advisory Committee for Libraries in the Netherlands have now resulted in the publication of a long-term plan for coordination and development of academic and research libraries in that country.

In an attractively produced publication, the committee reports in detail on some major issues facing academic libraries: problems of information retrieval and bibliographic access, collection development,

the research function of libraries and librarians, and centralization vs. decentralization arguments. Separate chapters deal with auxiliary technical processes, reproduction problems, conservation of library materials, building efficiency, personnel, organizational structure and legislation. Each topic is treated systematically, with a careful analysis of the problem involved, a discussion of national and foreign trends, and a list of specific recommendations with suggestions for implementation. In a final chapter the committee lists priority recommendations for the period until 1972 with regard to legislation and organization, library education and the status of library personnel, together with a recapitulation of the most important topics for further study.

With regard to legislation the committee recommends the establishment of a legal depository in the Royal Library in The Hague and a subsequent change of the current trade bibliography into a national bibliography. Other proposals include clear legal status for libraries in the academic structure, changes in copyright laws, and the establishment of a national executive body to coordinate and guide future library developments. Of special interest is the request for government support for the acquisition of significant manuscripts and early printed materials. Better guidelines are needed for library education, the status of academic librarians, professional and supporting staff. There are recommendations for the special training of restorers, translators and information specialists.

As major fields of further study the committee mentions: a national plan for collection development, a depository for little-used materials, mechanization and automation, standards for library buildings and equipment, and a national plan for research in the fields of manuscript study and historical bibliography.

Much of what the committee discusses and most of its recommendations are of wider relevance than the Dutch scene only. An English translation of the full text of the report would make a most stimulating document available to a world audience.—*Hendrik Edelman, Joint University Libraries.*

The Government and Control of Libraries. By Kenneth Alan Stockham. London: Andre Deutsch, 1968. 110p. 18s. (68-107466 GB).

Characterized as a textbook for nongraduate British library science students preparing for their General Professional Examination, this slim volume might be better described as a syllabus. The first chapter on government of libraries presents an excellent summary of the role played by the central government in financing and controlling national, academic, and public libraries in the United Kingdom. The composition of major governing boards is delineated with excellent internal references to government documents containing additional information. Major elements of *The Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964* are contrasted with earlier legislation, indicating the probable impact of the 1964 act.

Chapter three details the sources of national and local revenues and methods of allocation to library functions. An adequate summary with examples of a revenue and a capital budget identifies the elements which comprise the annual and long-range needs of the library. Only one item in the bibliography deals with finance, and it is restricted to public library finance.

The remaining chapters are of considerably less value. Chapters on "management" and "staffing" are a series of broad, general truisms on the qualities of a head librarian and the need for clear-cut lines of authority. It is noteworthy that no mention is made of staff involvement in the decision-making processes, goal identification, or basic personnel management practices such as staff evaluation conferences. Basic concepts such as scientific management and systems analysis receive no recognition. The chapter on "stock control" seems more appropriate for a book on technical services, since it deals with operational techniques rather than managerial skills or administrative options; even so, the paragraph on the role of the computer seems an inadequate recognition of its potential.

Library schools offering courses in comparative library systems will find the chapters on "government" and "finance" of

value as well as the appendix which gives the examination questions from previous years. Some pertinent monographs are contained in the bibliography of suggested readings, but a heavy emphasis on public library titles is evident. Despite the lucid style and a few informative chapters, the general paucity of descriptive or interpretive information makes this volume inappropriate for general library purchase. —*James Foyle, University of Denver.*

Computerized Library Catalogs: Their Growth, Cost, and Utility. By J. L. Dolby; V. J. Forsyth; and H. L. Resnikoff. Cambridge: M.I.T. Press, 1969.

The principal value of this book is as a catalog of considerations relevant to the design of mechanized catalog production systems. Some research results and some suggestions on specific design features are presented. The book is particularly recommended to library administrators and library systems analysts. Computer jargon is used only when necessary, and, when used, is defined for the nontechnical reader. The "growth" in the title is dealt with in terms of the fact that libraries tend to grow at an exponential rate. Estimating the growth rate for individual libraries can be difficult because of the unavailability of reliable statistical data. A method of using imprint dates as a basis for such estimates is suggested. In addition, an original method of predicting the language breakdown of future acquisitions is presented. Using this method, the authors predict that foreign-language materials will constitute a constantly increasing percentage of future acquisitions of research libraries—a prediction that will be of interest to all library administrators.

A chapter entitled "An Analysis of Cost Factors" concentrates on hardware-related costs. It includes a particularly lucid section on the problems of choosing a programming language, and a useful comparison of input devices. The claimed potential for cost savings should be viewed warily, since it is not clear what costs are included in those presented. A brief appendix to this chapter, surveying some linguistic data manipulation languages, will probably not interest the nontechnical reader. Another chapter, on typography and format, discusses the important problem of achieving maximum information density on the printed page while maintaining legibility.

Among other values of the book are a stimulating discussion of publication schedules for book catalogs and supplements, and a chapter on automatic error detection. It is regrettable (but easily explained by the paucity of work on the problem) that the latter does not concern itself with the more general question of automatic editing, since a hefty portion of the cost of most mechanized cataloging systems is attributable to the necessity of human editing. In backfile conversion projects especially, it appears that automatic editing routines could be devised that would profitably make use of the large amount of organization already present in catalog card data.

On-line catalogs are not discussed, probably because, for most libraries, it now is, or shortly will be, feasible to use computers to produce human-readable catalogs (perhaps in microform), while placing the catalog on line is a possibility only for the more distant future. A more serious shortcoming is the failure to discuss the use of machine-readable catalog records acquired from extramural sources. There are serious problems to be solved before local systems can make effective use of such records, but their availability will radically affect the costs of mechanizing catalog production. Nothing in the present book is invalidated when externally produced catalog records are considered, but to the extent that they are available, they must be taken into account in system design.—*Kelley L. Cartwright, University of California, Berkeley.*

Directory of Library Consultants. Ed. by John Berry III. New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1969. 141p. $10.75.

It seems to me that this volume will, because it is enumerative and not evaluative, serve a very limited purpose. Librarians of large libraries usually know who the real experts are for the projects for which consultation help is needed. Representatives of small libraries probably do not know this and they cannot find out