

# Recent Publications

## BOOK REVIEWS

***International Conference on African Bibliography***, Nairobi, 1967. The bibliography of Africa; proceedings and papers. J. D. Pearson and Ruth Jones, eds. New York, Africana Pub. Corp., 1970. 362p. \$17.50.

Organized by the International African Institute (London), the International Conference on African Bibliography brought together a distinguished group of librarians, documentalists, and scholars concerned with the problems of coordination and standardization of current African bibliographical services. Over twenty-five papers on a variety of topics were presented. The participants, coming from African countries, Europe, Britain, and the United States made a number of recommendations. The development of standardized national bibliographies is of primary importance for the bibliographical control of African books, periodicals, and government publications. Several countries have, with varying degrees of success, made serious efforts in this direction. In separate papers the state of the art is described for Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, Senegal, Mali, and Madagascar. Closely connected with the subject of standardization are the problems of cataloging and classification. Jean Fontvieille of the Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire in Dakar illustrates these problems clearly in his outstanding paper, "Le Nom des Écrivains d'Afrique Noire," which, as the conference recommended, should be made available in English.

Another important dimension of African bibliography is the control of the literature dealing with Africa. Such materials are published all over the world and bibliographical access remains a serious prob-

lem. A number of existing services are described and special attention should be called to the discussion of available bibliographical card services in the article of René Bureau and the extensive listing of periodicals containing bibliographical data on articles relating to Africa which was published as an appendix to Julian Witherell's contribution, "Bibliographic Control of Periodical Literature on Africa." Other noteworthy papers deal with the problems of procurement of African materials—including a description of the efforts of the Library of Congress—the need for the organization of African archival collections, and the problems concerning African ephemera, microforms, and nonbook materials. The most significant contribution, however, is the "Survey of Bibliographical Services Covering Current Publications on Africa" by Ruth Jones, librarian at the International African Institute and coeditor of these proceedings.

Although the results and recommendations of the conference were widely publicized immediately afterwards, it is unfortunate that it took three years to publish the proceedings. A few contributions have been slightly updated, but a review of the progress in African bibliography since the conference would have greatly increased the usefulness of this volume. Seven of the contributions are in French; the others are in English. The introduction and the conference recommendations have been printed in both languages. There is no index.—*Hendrik Edelman, Joint University Libraries.*

***Problems in University Library Management***. Association of Research Libraries, Washington, D.C., 1970. 63p.

This little pamphlet is the first product of an effort mounted by the Joint Committee on University Library Management of

the Association of Research Libraries and the American Council on Education. The stated purpose of the study, carried out by a consulting firm, was to identify problems. It is quite evident from the report that they have accomplished their purpose. It is equally evident that these problems are obvious enough to those less than dedicated to modern management theory; the net result is essentially a restatement of a collection of enduring problems long ago identified and deplored, if not attacked.

The introductory chapter sets the stage, describing current trends in higher education with particular emphasis on the place of the library in this framework and how the library is affected or affects these trends. The Special Report of the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education is taken as the point of departure.

The second chapter sketches out the major management problems in university libraries in the areas of planning, budgeting, operations, organization, staffing, facilities, financing, and interinstitutional cooperation.

A third chapter is devoted to a series of detailed recommendations for improving the management of university libraries in each of the weak areas identified. There is a tabular summary, listing with each problem area one or more courses of corrective action and the agencies which should be responsible. For virtually all of the problem areas the ARL is advised to serve as prime mover and shaker. Some responsibilities are also suggested for the joint committee sponsors, the university and the library, the library alone, and in one case, the federal government. In nearly all areas the promotion of further research and study is recommended. The study team does not offer package solutions or prescriptions.

The final, very brief chapter is entitled "Plan of Action." In it a long-term program of research is outlined with a strong recommendation for the establishment of an ARL standing committee to carry out the initiation, design, financing, and nominal direction of each area of needed research. The program envisions the use of headquarters personnel and supervision, with additional operating specialists and consultants as needed. Financial support

for this recommendation by the Council on Library Resources has already been announced.

There can be no doubt that numerous and real problems of university libraries have been accurately diagnosed in this report. It is unlikely, however, that operating university libraries will find anything new or unexpected in this catalog. What may be new is a consequence of the close collaboration of ACE with ARL and the resulting frequent consideration of the effective coordination (or lack of coordination) of university and university library. This is not to excuse the library for its failures or to blame its parent institution, but to emphasize the necessary interdependence, often neglected. It is this emphasis and the growing recognition of the mutual advantages to these two prime national agencies which may constitute the most important contribution this study has made. Only time and the productive completion of the broad range of research outlined can speak for the usefulness of this document. Lacking this, what we have here is no more than an accurate outline of the numerous problems which beset university libraries in our time.—*Jerrold Orne, University of North Carolina.*

**U.K. MARC Project: Proceedings of a Seminar (March 1969) Organized by the Cataloguing and Indexing Group of the Library Association.** A. E. Jeffries and T. D. Wilson, eds. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Oriel Press, 1970. 116p.

A. J. Wells, of the British National Bibliography, in his introduction to this seminar, labels it as the first full-scale discussion of the British National Bibliography, or rather U.K. MARC Project. It was intended that the participants emerge with the ability to look at library problems as they exist now in the light of computers and MARC, rather than spring out with full-fledged operable computer systems. This is important to keep in mind when evaluating the papers presented and the comments made during the seminar.

The volume contains nine papers plus Wells' introduction. Topics covered include: planning and format of U.K.