

system of fee payment by coupon to the SILC method would be easy.

Palmour was looking for solutions that could be implemented quickly; Hayes addressed himself to the various communications problems that are inherent in the interlibrary loan process and explored ways of using time-sharing computer systems to resolve some of them. The communication network that Hayes proposes would use the hardware and some software of an existing time-sharing system to facilitate the transmittal of interlibrary loan requests and other ILL messages; to refer requests to bibliographic data centers for better citations than appear on the request forms and for location information; to serve as a clearing house for billing and payment of fees; to provide statistical reports on interlibrary loan traffic and workload; and to provide access to on-line data bases. Teletype terminals would be used to access the system. A major purpose of the Hayes study was to evaluate the technical, operational, management, and economic feasibility of the proposed system. The evidence he has marshalled certainly supports his contentions that the "evaluations are essentially positive . . . and the report recommends proceeding further in development and pilot tests of the operation." Hayes has anticipated the likely questions about the proposal and has countered them in turn. His arguments are convincing. One is led to conjecture, however, about the implication of the adoption of the system. If TWX terminals are the means of access to the system, will small libraries be able to participate in it as fully as they would like? Will the pattern of interlibrary lending be changed by the system so that greater emphasis will be on local resources than now exists? Many libraries now participate in one or more consortia, systems, councils, networks, etc., one of whose functions is to promote interlibrary lending within the group. Will SILC facilitate this interaction as Hayes suggests, or will it be just one more bureaucracy for the ILL librarian to contend with? A pilot test of the system is recommended to get answers to these and other questions.

A National Periodical Resources Center which would serve as the referral center for periodical requests which cannot be met through local resources is the recommenda-

tion of Vernon Palmour, et al., in their study of access to periodical resources. The advantages of developing a new collection were weighed against supplementing an existing collection to serve as the center. The proposal is based to a large degree on the organization and practices of the National Lending Library for Science and Technology of Great Britain (NLL) before it became part of the British Library Lending Division (BLL). Palmour and his team contend that the critical need is for a new periodical collection. Does the merger of the NLL into BLL suggest a need here for a more comprehensive collection—one that could supply monographs as well as serials? If this question has any validity, then, would not an existing collection serve logically as the resource center for both monographs and periodicals? An essential question is: Would the recommendations of this study have been different if it had not been limited to periodical resources?

Programs proposed in the SILC study and the Periodical Resources Center study require funding. Both studies recommend some form of federal subsidy as a means of support. What priorities are given to these programs? The entire library community must be involved in determining those priorities if available funds are to be used to maximum effectiveness.—*Donald C. Cook, Assistant Director for Public Services, State University of New York at Stony Brook.*

Goodrum, Charles A. *The Library of Congress*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1974. 292p.

This book should not be viewed as an encyclopedic work, or "What you always wanted to know about the Library of Congress but didn't know whom to ask." It was written for the Praeger Library of U.S. Government Departments and Agencies series; the author succeeds admirably in achieving his purpose of giving a general overview of the institution. The success is due to the author's writing ability and sense of humor. He is also very familiar with the library and very diplomatic. Because he knows his subject well and writes succinctly and lucidly, he has provided an excellent description of the library's history, organization, and functions for the nonlibrarian.

Examples of the unique materials in the special collections and nonbook units of the library are highlighted to make the sketches of those units particularly interesting. (John Y. Cole's *A List for Further Reading*, p.285-88, provides access to more information about specific departments.)

Librarians will not view this work as the definitive study of LC; the author himself notes this on p.175:

. . . our hurried, obviously superficial glance at a few of the many libraries that make up the Library of Congress. Not only could whole books be written about a single room—or drawer or item of the Library—but whole books have been so written.

The description of the six card catalogs covers but one and a half pages. The explanations of the theories and practices of technical processing are, of necessity, oversimplified. There are no footnotes for the quotes used so effectively throughout the text. Although numbers of positions, job descriptions, and statistics of work accomplished are given, the book seems somehow unpeopled except for the superstars.

Librarians will find the last five chapters particularly interesting. Here Mr. Goodrum asks how well is the library doing its job (p.177). He uses this question to structure his presentation of the needs and satisfaction level of the library's three principal user groups: Congress, the library profession, and the scholarly research world. How the library goes about meeting these needs, the relationships between the library and each group, and some of the political realities of those relationships are concisely reported. Mr. Goodrum objectively sets forth the demands on the library's resources by each of the three and the conflicts which would be involved in meeting any particular group's requirements completely. The chapters do not appear to be merely a personal view or to favor one group. Rather, they do give a sharp outline of those conflicts about the purpose of the Library of Congress and how that purpose may be determined and what the choice will mean to all those interested in the outcome. Mr. Goodrum's perceptions of the issues of concern have additional significance as the library world awaits the selection of a new Librarian of Congress. That person will

have to have what Mr. Goodrum offers as the answer to the library's questions about the future, ". . . more wisdom" (p.280).

Mr. Goodrum's work does extremely well that which it sets out to do. As an added recommendation, it provides a clear statement of the library's directional conflicts. The price of \$10.00 unfortunately may prevent individual librarians from buying their own copies.—*Judy H. Fair, Director of the Library, The Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.*

National Library of Canada. Resources Survey Section. *Research Collections in Canadian Libraries*. Ottawa: Information Canada, 1972- . Part I, Universities. Volume 6, Canada (1974). 100p.

Volume six is a summary and a critique of the first five volumes in a continuing series, which is entitled *Research Collections in Canadian Libraries*. The earlier volumes, each of which dealt with a geographic area of Canada, were all issued in 1972. They report statistically by subject forty-five collections in as many universities, or parts of universities, that offer graduate studies in the humanities or the social sciences. It is planned that "the information will be kept up to date in the future and will be augmented by further surveys of federal government libraries, special libraries, and large public libraries, and by the extension of these surveys to include science and other collections."

On the whole Canada has been well served in the past by many and varying library surveys—well served in part because the principal finding has always been so simple and so apparent. Canadians needed books. The satisfaction of this lack is still the main and most difficult task for the libraries of this vast land.

Volume six of this the latest, but not the best, survey is in two parts.

The first part presents a list of recommendations which are addressed to libraries in general. There follows a historical sketch of Canadian universities and two further essays. One essay relates academic programs to library resources, and the other deals with national information and library networks in the Canadian context. A final piece, called "Surveying the Survey; A Self-