

of the holes in those indexes might prevent premature retirement, and (2) an added statement indicating the "End of Study" would be of value, especially when the last page of such a study is filmed on the last frame of a given fiche.

All in all, the *LTR* and its *Sourcebook* are outstanding contributions to library technical literature and excellent candidates for the ALA's centennial best-seller. For larger libraries, requiring reliable and most recent information about library equipment, supplies, and services, the bimonthly *LTR* is almost indispensable, in spite of its \$100 subscription tag. The annual cumulation of the *SLT*, at half this price, is the second best solution. Most probably, the purchase of the *Sourcebook* in addition to the *LTR* subscription, will depend to a large degree on the extent and thoroughness of its editorial updates.

The critical consideration about any good service is not the fact that it costs, but the conviction that it pays. The *LTR* series is now accessible to practically all library budgets—paying many times over the initial cost of its subscription.—Joseph Z. Nitecki, *Temple University Libraries*.

Annual Review of Information Science and Technology. Volume 10, 1975. Carlos A. Cuadra, Editor. Ann W. Luke, Associate Editor. Washington, D.C.: American Society of Information Science, 1975. 476p. \$27.50. (LC 66-25096) (ISBN 0-87715-210-1)

Writing a review of the eleven separate articles contained in this volume has proved a very difficult assignment. On the one hand, the pretensions of the field are very high. One is impressed by the thoroughness of the work the individual authors have done in assembling and describing 1,505 publications in the field and producing an index that is over fifty pages long. On the other hand, after one has waded through it all, one feels having heard considerable fancy but essentially empty talk.

It is too bad that the *Annual Review* has not seen fit to update its coverage of one of the real advances in information science and computer technology; namely, data base management systems (last covered in

volume 7). Its coverage of other important advances, such as data storage devices, data input devices, and data output devices is very scattered. Instead, in this volume we are given an entire review devoted to mini-computers. Unfortunately, the discussion of these machines is hopelessly naive; and the examples given represent more the dreams of some computer salesman than a review of "information science."

The review entitled "Library Automation" suffers from the opposite problem; namely, it lists item after item with little or no comment as to the significance or meaning of each. The review by Peter B. Schipma, "Generation and Uses of Machine-Readable Data Bases," is, by contrast, excellent. He discusses standardization, software, organizational relationships to data bases, etc., all from a knowledgeable well-thought-out point of view. A recurrent theme in his article is the cost effectiveness of such systems, and he emphasizes that this subject is "the area of great vacuum in the literature."

The article by Seldon W. Terrant, "The Computer and Publishing," is also excellent. The author reviews carefully the actual steps being slowly taken by the industry so that "many of the long promised capabilities have materialized." The chapter by Donald A. Dunn, "Communications Technology," is very useful because of its balanced and thorough approach. His account of AT&T's attempts to keep prices high and others out of the communication business as well as the description of two new areas in communications (digital data transmission and packet switching) should be read by anyone who is or plans to be part of a computer network. The review by Ben H. Weil on "Copyright Developments" is also quite good at relating the developments of the judicial and legislative process with those of technology.

Three separate reviews address the non-technological aspects of information science, that is, getting all participants in the field together to figure out what they should be doing. One article, "Bibliographic Standards," provides a good account of the organizations that supposedly set standards and how they interrelate. Another review, "National Planning of Information Services," anticipates a good deal of growth

in the literature of this field. The third article, "Cooperation in Information Activities through International Organizations," tells what is really happening: "Information, in short, is being looked at as a source of power, and wherever power exists, political interest follows."

The most extensive review in this volume, with 276 bibliographic citations and a length 50 percent longer than any other review, is "Design and Evaluation of Information Systems" by Rowena W. Swanson. Swanson points out that evaluation of such systems is "still in a formative stage in which the focus is more on investigative procedures and instruments rather than on outcomes." But how she can conclude that "information organization skills and the type of understanding of users that information scientists have acquired are sorely needed" is beyond the comprehension of this reviewer.

In short, then, we have here a book that one may turn to if one is unfamiliar with information science and its practitioners and wants an annotated bibliography of what they contributed during 1974. Some of the annotations are better than others, and there is an uneven quality to the entire volume.—*Stephen M. Silberstein, Library Systems Office, University of California, Berkeley.*

The Library of Congress as the National Bibliographic Center. Report of a Program Sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries, October 16, 1975. Washington: Association of Research Libraries, 1976. 58p. \$4.00.

The substance of this booklet is taken from the minutes of the October 1975 meeting of the Association of Research Libraries. It has been published separately in order to reach a wider audience; and for good reasons. The papers and discussion have great interest for the entire library community, spelling out as they do the activities and intentions of the Library of Congress in serving as the *de facto* center of national enterprise in bibliographical control.

The seventy-eighth meeting of ARL, held in Washington, D.C., featured a tour of the

Library of Congress and a meeting at which its operations and plans in the area of bibliographical control were described and discussed. Following a summary of the history of LC-ARL relations in bibliographical activities delivered by Warren Haas, four LC staff members described the present state of LC's automated projects and plans for their future development: William Welsh and Henriette Avram on "Automation Activities at the Library of Congress," Lucia Rather on "The Core Bibliographic System," Henriette Avram on "The National Bibliographical System [or Service]," and John Rather on "Transition to the Automated System." Discussion and questions followed.

It is difficult to select high points in the very exciting picture that has been outlined for the future. Much of the report is concerned with development of the "Core Bibliographical System"—the virtually complete automation of LC processing activities. These are not only of interest *per se* but also because these developments will provide the basis for the "National Bibliographical System." When this latter system is fully operational, the libraries of North America will have remote access to virtually all parts of LC's processing activities—not only a much-expanded MARC (covering all languages by 1979) but also the LC internal process information file, the CONSER serials data base, the register of additional locations, LC authority files, etc. About the only area in which major developments are not planned is that of large-scale revision and modernization of the present subject-heading structure.

In his paper on transition, John Rather is candid but optimistic in detailing the problems to be faced and solved before both systems reach full development, expected before the end of the 1970s. When they are, however, the Library of Congress will clearly be the National Bibliographical Center, or, perhaps more accurately, the National Center for Bibliographical Control, if still not the National Library *de jure*. But it will be providing the services other libraries probably most want from a national library.—*George Piternick, The University of British Columbia.*