indexing schemes, recall, precision, the interface between the user and the computer, inverted files, bit codes for data storage, and blocks/records/files. Various data base formats are described in terms of current data bases such as MARC, ERIC, CAIN, and others.

Chapter 5 discusses how to process data stored in internal memory, with consideration for efficiency in memory space and processing. Chapter 6 covers the structure of search programs, and chapter 7 investigates the vocabulary characteristics of document data bases and the relationship of those characteristics to search and storage considerations. Chapters 8 and 9 look at the information content of textual data and messages and at coding and compression techniques.

In an excellent chapter 10, the author poses requirements for a hypothetical document retrieval system, and with basic assumptions, guides the reader through design considerations. In chapter 11, a data base is described in which search terms are assigned to describe documents in the data base, rather than indexing attributes of information from the documents. Chapters 12 and 13 take up the question of the optimization of retrieval effectiveness and automatic document classification techniques. Chapter 14 contains brief concluding remarks.

In summary, this text does a very nice job of outlining design and efficiency considerations for information data bases and retrieval systems.—*Eleanor Montague, University of California, Riverside.*

Tebbel, John. ***A History of Book Publishing in the United States.*** Volume III: The Golden Age Between Two Wars, 1920–1940. New York: Bowker, 1978. 774p. $32.50. LC 71-163903. ISBN 0-8352-0498-7.

Like the two previous volumes, the third of Tebbel's promised four-volume *History* offers both overview and detail, here of what he justly characterizes as the golden age of book publishing. A brief "General View, 1919–1940" precedes two longer chapters, "1919: The Year of Transition" and "General Trends of the Twenties." This introductory section is followed by a series of résumés of the histories of the older houses during this decade; and these, in turn, are followed by accounts of the emergence of the "New Publishers of the Twenties."

The succeeding chapters in the twenties section deal with a broad range of specific aspects of publishing and marketing: e.g., paperbacks, educational books, reference works, the religious publishing houses, university presses, book clubs, advertising, manufacturing, and censorship.

Essentially the same pattern is repeated when Tebbel moves on to publishing in the thirties, the book then concluding with three appendixes—the most useful a statistical "Economic Review of Book Publishing, 1915–1945"—and a voluminous if somewhat haphazard index.

From its beginning in 1972, Tebbel's *History* was regarded an endeavor as valuable as it was ambitious. To chronicle in almost awesome detail the growth of an industry that has been so involved with the direction and quality of our cultural life is a contribution that we cannot but acknowledge with appreciation.

It is not, however, a work without some flaws. The principal problem with the book is its structure: its failure to organize specific facts, anecdotes, and data so as, on one hand, to support closely many of the historical generalizations or, on the other, to serve as a workable, easily accessible resource for the researcher.

The reader's difficulty in making out the forest amid all the trees is not lessened by the frequent inclusion of material that may be fairly regarded as of marginal significance. It is slightly annoying, for example, to find oneself reading that Alfred Harcourt's secretary married him "after his first wife, Susan, beset by ill health and depression, committed suicide in 1923 only a few hours before she was to be sent to a private sanitarium in New Rochelle."

One may, of course, criticize Tebbel's craftsmanship as a historiographer and at the same time recognize the historical riches to be found in his book. The index, as was noted, is not an adequate guide to the contents of the volume. The patient reader, however, will be rewarded with fact piled on fact, minor revelations, useful and suggestive statistics, unexpected relationships, and, finally, a broad and specific

sense of what influenced and what was influenced by these two decades of the American publishing industry. This view of the publishing trade in its wider context does much to compensate for the long trek through the hundreds of pages of detail.

The publisher represents one of a society's primary brokers of ideas and illusions, a point of exchange between what a public thinks and wants and is told. Because of this, Tebbel's *History*, however much an omnium-gatherum of a single industry it may appear, achieves a further dimension, a further significance that makes it that much more worthwhile an acquisition for any academic library.—*Charles Helzer, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.*

Gough, Chet, and Srikantaiah, Taverekere. ***Systems Analysis in Libraries: A Question and Answer Approach.*** Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books; London: Clive Bingley, 1978. 158p. $9.50. LC 78-7539. ISBN 0-208-01753-4 Linnet; 0-85157-278-2 Bingley.

Despite ongoing arguments whether management is a science or an art, much progress has been made in recent years in our ability to describe scientifically the operations and activities of a library. Yet paradoxically, the application of systems analysis techniques appears to be of less importance today than during the early 1970s. Perhaps management science from the business world when applied to libraries loses something in the translation! Nonetheless, this volume by Gough and Srikantaiah attempts to stress the importance of library systems analysis for scientific analysis of library services.

The authors tell us that the volume is intended for students and is a guide or concise aid that synthesizes common elements of library systems analysis. They emphasize the conciseness of the volume rather than its comprehensiveness. Although the structure of a dialectic conversation throughout the volume adds to its uniqueness, the book is well written and straightforward. This combination of conciseness and the question/answer structure is both the strength and the weakness of the book.

The first five chapters, i.e., understanding systems, the library as a system, stating goals, methods of description, and systems engineering, are excellent summaries of basic system concepts and applications. They may tend to be too concise for purposes of teaching, but they should be required reading for the many academic librarians who are not familiar with systems analysis as an ongoing management process in the library environment.

The volume falters somewhat during the next three chapters, evolution of computers, programming languages, and library automation. Although the discussions, in themselves, are useful, they tend to be general essays and are not tied into the systems analysis process. Implications of the computer in terms of its usefulness for systems analysis, management information systems, and statistics are not discussed. The traditional role of automated circulation, cataloging, and acquisition systems is described but not integrated into the concept of systems analysis for library management.

The text concludes with excellent observations on cost studies and the evaluation process. After the 102 pages of text, 25 pages of PERT, keeping a flowchart, work sampling, and other exercises are presented. An extensive bibliography and a somewhat limited index complete the volume. The exercises and bibliography themselves are worth the purchase price of the volume.

Because the volume is a concise summary, specific techniques cannot be explained adequately. Furthermore, the process of model building and the induction-deduction process are not addressed although they are critical components in the analysis and design of library systems. Nonetheless, the volume accomplishes its stated objective and provides a useful guide to library systems analysis. Readers will look forward to an expanded edition that provides details on specific techniques, research methods, and model building and integrates automated systems into the systems analysis process of the library as a whole.—*Charles R. McClure, University of Oklahoma, Norman.*

Kirk, Thomas G., Jr. ***Library Research Guide to Biology: Illustrated Search Strategy and Sources.*** Library Research