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