

addition to its usual function, this extensive and well-done index also serves as an excellent illustration of the principles introduced in the text. A check of one-sixth of the index revealed only four minor reference number errors (three incomplete references and one reference off by one number) and three linkages needed in the syndetic structure for consistency with the rest of the index.

Technically, this volume is well designed and sturdily bound in what seems to be the standard binding of this publisher. The typeface is attractive and easy to read, and only seven typographical errors were noted, only one of which will cause confusion: on page 161 the fourth line of the example is misspaced so that the lineup of the KWIC keywords is not readily apparent.

The authors' "slipper" fits; their excellent and complete presentation is a highly recommended *must* for students of library and information science, indexers, index users, information specialists, and publishers.—*Eldon W. Tamblin, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.*

Christian, Roger. *The Electronic Library: Bibliographic Data Bases, 1978-79*. White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, 1978. 105p. \$24.50. LC 78-18408. ISBN 0-914236-15-6.

At \$24.50, this slim one-hundred-page monograph is simply priced too high for the amount of information it provides. A much more realistic price would be \$5.95 for a monograph in paperback format that is an introductory discussion of electronic bibliographic data bases. Indeed, the *BRS System Reference Manual* costs only \$15, and it supplies specialized, precise, and detailed information on all of the various data bases that can be accessed through BRS.

Christian's work is also deficient because it does not list all of the various bibliographic data bases available in 1978-79. The *BRS System Reference Manual* and Williams and Rouse's *Computer Readable Bibliographic Data Bases: A Directory and Data Source Book* do provide this information in considerable detail, and they should be readily available to most librarians.

The lack of such a list in Christian's book is not critical, but when the author states

that bibliographic data bases have multiplied from 100 in 1975 to 360 by early 1978, it seems incumbent upon him to satisfy the reader's curiosity about what those data bases are. Christian does supply a bibliography, footnotes to each chapter, and an index; so a list of electronic bibliographic data bases might easily have been included as well.

These two deficiencies aside, Christian's book is an admirable introduction to bibliographic data bases for library school students and for librarians who would like to become more knowledgeable. Christian writes clearly, outlines his subject thoroughly, and eschews the use of jargon and confusing acronyms. He summarizes the background and development of bibliographic data bases. He describes various data base producers, such as Engineering Index's COMPENDEX, and explains the role of such data base distributors as Lockheed Information Systems, SDC Search Service, and BRS. Christian concludes with a chapter on problems, progress, and prospects.

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This last chapter is particularly interesting because Christian points out the security problems minicomputers create for electronic data bases. Apparently, it is technically feasible for anyone equipped with a minicomputer or a computer cassette to "simply take the data base vendor's search output in digital electronic form directly to the cassette or mini instead of (or in addition to) getting it as online alphanumeric printout." In effect, an electronic library can be created to be used and manipulated without economic benefit to the original vendor—electronic theft.

Christian's book is a clear exposition of the current state of electronic bibliographic data bases. It seems best suited for library school libraries and academic libraries. Despite its high price, it is recommended.—*Henry M. Yapple, University of Wyoming, Laramie.*

Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing. University of Illinois, 1977. *Negotiating for Computer Services*. J. L. Divilbiss, editor. Urbana: Graduate School of Library Science, University of Illinois, 1978. 117p. \$8. LC 78-13692. ISBN 0-87845-048-3.

Negotiating for computer services, the topic of the 1977 Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing, is an increasingly important aspect of library management. Little in-library education and few on-the-job experiences prepare the librarian for the difficulties of making decisions on computer equipment and systems: selection of appropriate machinery, combinations of machinery, programs, support systems, maintenance, and improvement arrangements.

Too many of the arguments and justifications for computer systems naturally come from the experts in the field, who are also, incidentally, the vendors of the systems. The library may need automation, but how does the library staff "buy" automation in a considered, logical, and timely way? The papers in this collection, while uneven in clarity and depth of detail, will be helpful and edifying to those grappling with the mysteries of design, hardware, software, and contracts.

Most of the presentations concern negoti-

ations between libraries and agencies outside their parent institutions—commercial vendors, network services, union lists. James Corey's discussion of negotiation within an organization is the best written and very informative. He is frank and to the point in describing examples of problems and solutions and the roles of human error and institutional politics in systems. Charles Dyer presents an attorney's tutorial on contracts for data processing, dense with information and very useful. The role-playing practicum carried out at the clinic apparently worked very well and can be repeated; all the materials and instructions are included.

Richard Boss and G. E. Gurr talk about the ill-fated 3M system at Princeton University—from the points of view of the library and vendor respectively. Boss's group did essentially what most well-meaning libraries would do in consideration of systems and negotiation of a contract, and the experience was, as we hindsightedly see, a disaster. Gurr gives us a capsule description of the free enterprise system in the United States and informs us that he does not believe in the Golden Rule but operates under it because "it is simply good sense from a self-serving viewpoint." (Would you buy a used car from this man, much less a circulation system?)

Papers on negotiations for OCLC services, MINITEX services, and the on-line bibliographic data bases offered by BRS are useful and still timely. I have lamented elsewhere in these reviewing pages about the delay in publishing proceedings of this annual clinic; in the case of the 1977 clinic the proceedings have a certain timelessness and value, at least as long as libraries continue to muddle through the decisions attending automating their libraries.

Ronald Brady, vice-president for administration at the University of Illinois, assures us that librarians need not be the underdogs in negotiations. He gives perhaps the best advice when he urges thoroughness of thoughtful planning, a conceptual model for the system we want, and attacking the right problem—that of the future instead of that of the present. He also stresses that very few computer systems in the educational environment have reduced costs, although