

many instances, the information is out-of-date. Upgraded hardware is available, new manufacturers have come into being, the software industry is booming, and libraries are charting new paths with their micros.

An important contribution to this book should have been the articles on staff development. Unfortunately, "Technology: Staff Issues" is little more than a summary of Ron Havelock's and Everett Roger's work on the dissemination patterns of innovation. It does not apply itself directly to the issue of libraries and technology in general, or micros, in particular. Much more space and detail should have been devoted to this area and to needs assessment if a manager is to seriously address these concerns. The bibliography and the glossary are two of the book's strengths. The glossary has excellent, short, well-explained definitions. The bibliography is divided into journals, books, journal articles, and technical reports and conference proceedings; the list is not comprehensive but the choices are excellent. It offers a good, well-rounded list for the librarian who needs to delve deep.

Microcomputers in Libraries is for the novice. It's a good place to begin the journey to the understanding of computers and library applications.—Judith A. Sessions, George Washington University.

Hernon, Peter, ed. *Collection Development and Public Access of Government Documents: Proceedings of the First Annual Library Government Documents and Information Conference*. Westport, Conn.: Meckler Publishing, 1982. 160p. \$29.95. LC 82-3435. ISBN 0-930466-49-7.

The papers in *Collection Development and Public Access of Government Documents; Proceedings of the First Annual Library Government Documents and Information Conference* were delivered in Boston, March 3 and 4, 1981. In the preface, editor Hernon points out that many writings about government publications are provincial and redundant and that there is a clear need for "research related to government publications, the introduction of innovative approaches to resolve ongoing problems, and more critical evaluation of underlying assump-

tions." These papers represent a first step in defining and addressing this need.

The book begins with Bernard Fry's "The Need for a Theoretical Base" which argues that consensus on a theoretical base is essential if document librarians are to actively meet the public need for government information in the face of accelerating numbers of publications and the growth of electronic information systems and services. Charles McClure's paper "Structural Analysis of the Depository System: A Preliminary Assessment" addresses the need for formal evaluative review of the U.S. federal depository system based on measuring performance against stated goals and objectives. McClure suggests several interesting alternatives to the existing depository structure but concludes that clear objectives and performance measures must be developed before rational decisions can be made about improvements in the system.

Two reports on research in progress, "Collection Development as Represented through the GPO Automated List of Item Numbers" by Peter Hernon and Gary R. Purcell and "Government Documents in Social Science Literature: A Preliminary Report of Citations from the Social Sciences Citation Index" by Peter Hernon and Clayton A. Shepherd, provide inconclusive preliminary results and explain some of the difficulties encountered in the research. Because GPO's item number file is archival rather than subject-oriented, it is virtually impossible to use it to analyze collection development patterns in depository libraries. Furthermore, it is extremely complex to carry out the type of citation analysis Hernon and Shepherd attempted using SSCI, but this kind of research could be extremely useful for government publications collection development work.

The remaining five papers in the volume are less oriented toward research and perhaps more directly applicable for the document librarian. LeRoy C. Schwarzkopf describes the historical development of the U.S. depository library program and explains his thesis that it is "basically a library sponsored and initiated program for the benefit of libraries, and not a program



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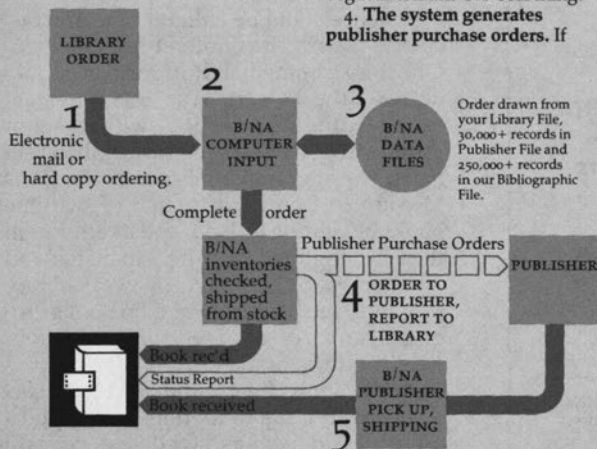
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of overriding concern to the federal government or to the general public." In "The United States Government Printing Office in the 1980s" William J. Barrett complements Schwarzkopf nicely by focusing on the impact of technology on the GPO. Luciana Marulli-Koenig examines collection development principles and applications relating to United Nations documentation. Peter I. Hajnal provides a basic description of Unesco's documents and publications and of the problems of bibliographic control. In "The Uses and Misuses of Information Found in Government Publications" Joe Morehead engagingly presents an issue that has both practical and ethical implications. What is the librarian's role in interpreting, pointing out pitfalls, and warning about unreliable statistical data particularly for unsophisticated library users? Is there an obligation to do more than acquire, catalog, and make government information accessible? Citing examples of widely used statistics that may be misleading, easily misinterpreted without close attention to explana-

tory material, or self-serving, Morehead concludes by saying he is attempting to raise the question of the librarian's role for further discussion. The article could well serve as an excellent introduction to discussion of the topic.

As a group, the papers in this volume do not make a unified statement nor do they conform all that well to the collection development and public access title they've been assigned. However, each of them does make a valuable contribution—whether it is in providing background information, outlining an approach to a current topic of concern, or describing an area where research is badly needed. Although the book is a worthwhile addition to libraries with extensive holdings in government publications and/or library science, its \$29.95 price tag may well be a deterrent to libraries without them.—Carol Turner, *Stanford University Libraries*.

Price, Paxton P., ed. *International Book and Library Activities: The History of a U.S. Foreign Policy*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1982. 248p. LC 82-3297. ISBN 0-8108-1545-1.

This is a frustrating book because its generous title implies far more than actually comes through. The U.S. government, through one agency or another, has long and usefully been involved in a variety of international book and library activities. A focussed analysis of this rich experience could be enlightening and fascinating, but it has not yet been written. One thinks immediately of such undertakings as: the Library War Service established by the ALA in 1917, with its interesting progeny the American Library in Paris; the aggressive Library of Congress Mission to Europe in search of wartime books beginning in 1943, and its aftermath the Farmington Plan; the expansive and often embattled U.S.I.A. overseas library program; the practical Franklin Books Program; and, of course, the extensive, worldwide activities of ALA's International Relations Board under the sponsorship and funding of a number of government agencies as well as private foundations.

However, this book barely mentions but



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