

Selected Journals in Library and Information Sciences

Beverly P. Lynch



This article continues the series of reviews of journals published in the field of library and information science. Although it appears under a by-line, the reviews are a project of the librarians of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Each review is signed with the initials of the librarian who prepared it.¹

Several journals being reviewed are ones not normally considered journals of the profession. These titles were called to our attention as being useful to librarians and thus suitable for review. Patricia Tegler comments in her review of the indexes and abstracts of the library literature² ". . . management, communication, education, and operations research information is regularly read by some librarians and information scientists and should, if one accepts use as a criterion, be considered library literature." Tegler comments that because there is little agreement within the profession as to the definition of library literature and because there are few clearly understood guidelines, the indexes and abstracts of the library literature have different philosophies of coverage. They also lack a comprehensiveness of coverage. Some services index a journal from cover to cover; others are more selective. Several abstracts and indexes must be used in order to access the library literature satisfactorily.³ Of the journals being reviewed here, two are indexed in *Bulletin Signaletique*, two in *Reterativnyi Zhurnal*, four in *Information Science Abstracts*, seven

in *Library and Information Science Abstracts*, and five in *Library Literature*.

We welcome suggestions of titles for review in subsequent issues.

BYTE. Peterborough, N.H.: McGraw-Hill. V.1 no.1 (Sept. 1975), monthly, \$21 per year. ISSN 0360-5280.

Unlike many popular computer journals, which tend to narrow their scope and to concentrate more and more on one subject (e.g., games), one brand of computer (IBM PC, Apple, TRS-80, etc.), or one area of user interest (business applications, computer-assisted instruction), *BYTE* maintains its position of a general-interest publication. Each issue concentrates on a special theme, such as mass storage, new computer chips, database management systems; the September issue is always devoted to a specific computer language.

Issues are large (about 500 pages), with advertising by most of the major manufacturers and software houses. Articles may be about almost any aspect of hardware or software, and can be fairly technical; they assume some working knowledge on the part of the reader, and can be hard going for a novice. Book and software reviews are usually good, and regular monthly columns are generally excellent.

BYTE is probably the best choice for moderately knowledgeable readers who are looking for one monthly journal to keep them informed about microcomputers and related matters.—LAS.

1. Frank Immler, Nancy R. John, Louis A. Schultheiss, Stephen E. Wiberley, Jr.

2. Patricia Tegler, "The Indexes and Abstracts of Library and Information Science," *Drexel Library Quarterly*, V.15 (July 1979) 2-23.

3. ———, p.7.

Collection Building. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers. V.1 no.1 (1978), quarterly, \$55 per year. ISSN 0160-4953.

Arthur Curley's initial editorial states that by stressing "excellence in resource development" for all sizes and types of libraries, *Collection Building* challenges the monopoly of collection development concerns enjoyed in the literature by "the large university-research library." A typical issue contains five to seven essays which may vary widely in length but which share a traditional vocabulary, style, and approach to librarianship—free, that is, of management jargon and bibliometrics. Each issue contains a judicious mix of settings—college, public, and school libraries, even an occasional network—as well as one or two bibliographical essays on such topics of current popular interest as community health care, retirement, and chemical wastes. Specialists contribute regular columns on free and inexpensive materials (Kathleen Weibel, later Ilse B. Moon), alternative press materials (Elliott Shore, later Sandy Berman), and collection development policies (Elizabeth Futas). These columns help to account for the unusual level of coherence maintained through the twelve numbers of the completed four volumes. Despite a primary focus on public and college libraries, the editor has in fact attracted essays that should interest librarians in most settings.

The fifth volume inaugurates a new physical format, a quarterly schedule, and a substantial content increase, at no increase(!) in subscription price. If the Spring 1983 number remains typical, the additional content will appear in new columns on administration, youth, "the library-publishing connection," and personal perspectives. What the abandonment of the rather clumsy former subtitle, "Studies in the Development and Effective Use of Library Resources," may imply for the future is questionable. Slicker graphics and two articles on the Island Trees school library case (one by non-librarian Nat Hentoff) suggest a bid for a broader, more issue-oriented journal. An article by David Stam of RLG and the announcement of a column by Hendrik

Edelman herald the welcome admission of the hitherto-excluded research library. Faced with these possibly conflicting signals, one hopes that *Collection Building* does not lose the canny balance of substance and general appeal so admirably achieved thus far.—*FL*.

Collection Management. New York: Harworth Press. V.1 no.3-4 (Fall-Winter 1976-77), quarterly, \$48.00 (individuals), \$60.00 (institutions) per volume. ISSN 0146-2679. (Continues *De-Acquisitions Librarian*.)

Collection Management originated as a forum for quantitative research theory and applications in the management of library collections. It was designed to publish articles with a "pragmatic thrust either implicit or explicit" for a broadly defined audience who desired "better knowledge of the management forces" inside and outside the library. "Classic papers," seminal statements about managing collections would be reprinted to provide historical perspective and a series of "tutorials" would offer a kind of primer in quantitative methods for those readers daunted by the graphs, charts, formulae, and specialized terminology found in main articles.

CM has published a number of significant or provocative individual pieces. Special issues on bibliometrics (V.2, no.3) and operations research in libraries (V.3, no.2/3) are valuable state-of-the-art compendia as is the issue edited by Hendrik Edelman (V.4, no.1/2). Despite such achievements, however, the eleven numbers of CM, taken together, convey a sense of diffuse editorial purpose and audience focus. Some of the "classic papers" are the real thing, for example, Bradford's 1934 article on literature distribution in periodicals. Others merely evoke a (smiling or rueful) *plus ça change* that vitiates the journal's tough pragmatic stance. The "tutorials" sort uncomfortably with the sophistication of many contributions. The lack of firm focus is most evident in Volume 3, number 1 where a systems approach to a preservation program and an evaluation of a science journal collection unsuccessfully cohabit with

a guide to writing publishable articles.

More disturbing than its identity problem has been *CM's* production history, which has troubled its followers since its apologetic emergence mid-volume from the ashes of *De-Acquisitions Librarian* with new editors and a professional quarterly format. As with other Haworth Press publications, *CM's* cutting edge has been blunted by increasing delays between numbers, double issues misleadingly dated, and further changes of editors and physical formats. Downsized considerably now, *CM's* completed fourth volume is slimmer than its predecessor by a hundred pages—yet the current subscription price nearly doubles that of 1976.

In fairness, the fourth volume also achieves more consistent tone and focus, and the addition of substantial book reviews is welcome. If its present editor, Jasper G. Schad, can maintain this coherence and surmount production difficulties, *CM* could still become the force in the new librarianship it set out to be.—*FI*.

Datamation. Barrington, Ill.: Technical Publishing. V.5 no.3 (May-June 1959), (bimonthly 1959-60), monthly \$42.00 per year. ISSN 0011-6963.

Datamation is intended for data processing professionals who wish to keep up-to-date with current developments in their field. Each issue concentrates on a specific topic; recent examples include distributed data processing, integrated office systems, and PBX systems. Although articles are intended for those with a good working knowledge of data processing language and concepts, and emphasize corporate applications and news, experienced librarians may find this publication useful as a source of information about new concepts and products.

This title should be of interest to nearly all academic librarians, as well as to many in large public libraries.—*LAS*.

Journal of Documentation. London: ASLIB. V.1 (Sept. 1945), quarterly, £44. ISSN 022-0418.

In spite of its title, the *Journal of Documentation* is not just for documentalists. It concerns itself with librarianship and in-

formation science, and with practical problems in the organization of materials, as well as theoretical approaches to information analysis and dissemination. It is international in scope; recent issues include articles by American as well as British authors. Book reviews are excellent.

One of the more recent issues (December 1982) contains five interesting papers dealing with the British Library from the standpoint of the public library, the regional library, the university library, the polytechnic library, and the industrial research library. (A sixth paper by two computer scientists at Cornell University contains enough charts, graphs, and mathematical formulae to gladden the heart of the most determined information scientist.)

Another recent issue (September 1982) has an excellent report on the results of investigations by the Royal School of Librarianship, Copenhagen, on the cognitive aspects of search procedures in libraries. There is also a very good paper reviewing studies of the "Invisible College" and the transfer of information between social scientists.—*LAS*.

Journal of Library Administration. New York: Haworth Press. V.1 no.1 (Spring 1980), quarterly, \$48.00 per volume. ISSN 0192-0826.

The *Journal of Library Administration* has the makings of a good library journal. It is well-edited and timely. The articles present expert opinion or thoughtful consideration of various issues of library management. Leadership, job satisfaction, performance appraisal, job sharing, the use of student workers are some of these. The contents, particularly in the early issues, reflect the interests of the editor, John R. Rizzo, Professor of Marketing, Western Michigan University, in staff development and organization development. Later issues reflect trends in cut-back management and organizational decline.

The format follows that of other Haworth Press journals. Regular features include commentaries on technical services, legal issues, and models of public services. Books on library management are

reviewed from time to time. Special issues have been published on "Planning for Library Services" (V.2, no.2/3/4) edited by Charles R. McClure and "Financial Planning for Libraries" (V.3, no.3/4) edited by Murry S. Martin. These issues are well designed and include contributions by well known experts in the field.

A good feature is the section "Worth Repeating from the Management Literature." Articles are reprinted from journals such as *The Academy of Management Review*, *Personnel Psychology*, and *Public Administration Review*. These are papers the editor considers to be of interest or importance to library administrators. They are usually theoretical discussions, not research pieces, on current trends in organizational theory and work environments. This section continues the education of the library administrator who does not read widely in the management literature.

Library managers will want to keep watching this journal. As yet, there is little in its regular contents that is new or not already somewhere in the library literature.—BPL.

Library Research. Norwood, N.J.: Ablex Publishing Corporation. V.1 no.1 (Spring 1979), quarterly, \$22.50 (individuals), \$45.00 (institutions) per volume. ISSN 0164-0763.

Library Research was established to disseminate to the profession significant research that employs social science methodologies. The almost four volumes published to date show that the editors have been faithful to their original intentions. With the regular exception of each issue's review essay, almost all of the articles have utilized some kind of social science methodology; quantitative data and analysis abound. The range of topics covered is vast, from Danish book publishing to materials used by high school students. There are as many articles addressed to issues of public libraries as there are to problems in academic librarianship.

Because the journal covers an extremely broad range of topics, it is reassuring to see the editors have recruited a distinguished editorial board and have sent manuscripts to an outstanding group of

referees. For the present review, ten articles close to the reviewer's expertise were examined carefully. As a group they were interesting, sophisticated, and clearly written.

This is an important journal for all libraries with patrons or staff who have interest in rigorous and advanced library research. Similarly, individuals interested in developments in methodology should consider a personal subscription. Those who read library literature solely for substantive findings may find the range of topics covered so large that few issues will have articles relevant to their specializations.—SEW.

The Serials Librarian; The International Quarterly of Serials Management. New York: Haworth Press. V.1 no.1 (Fall 1976), quarterly, \$48.00 per volume. ISSN 0361-526X.

During the first five years of Haworth Press's *Serials Librarian*, a quarterly, four issues appeared each year. The only irregularity, other than late issues, occurred with volume 2, number 3, when the subtitle changed from "The Quarterly Journal of Serials Management" to "The International Quarterly of Serials Management." Volume 6, somewhat reduced in overall size from its predecessors, appeared in three issues. Volume 7 is in progress at the time of this review.

The first two issues of volume 7 contain eleven articles, a review of a conference, and one book review. Regular features are an editorial by Peter Gellatly, "Into the Hopper," by Joe Morehead, and "Serials News" by Gary Pitkin. An occasional feature, "Microserials Management" by Jean Walter Farrington, also appeared in volume 7, number 2.

The articles are a good mixture of practice, theory, and history, and, on the whole, are easy to read. In volume 7, number 1, articles cover such questions as the value of subscription agents; the effectiveness of the OCLC serials control system; sources for selected Canadian periodicals; a review of science fiction journals; and a history of the Polish press in America. An especially interesting and important article by Gerald R. Lowell updates Frank

Clasquin's work on periodical prices. Unfortunately, the cover banner, "In this issue, Geraid Lowell's 1983 serials prices projections (p.75)" really means an update of Clasquin's 1975-80 study and Lowell's study of 1981 with Lowell's study of 1982. Nonetheless, this information is of great interest and usefulness. Joe Morehead's "Into the Hopper" is a highly readable bibliographic essay. Each column takes a subject and describes government serial publications on the topic. Recent topics have addressed the handicapped, the environment, the United Nations, and the FBI.

Gary Pitkin's "Serials News" column is a true potpourri. As such, the currency and interest of items varies, but of special usefulness is the careful editing and presentation of the news items. Unlike other news sources, this one includes the significance of each item for the serials specialist. For example, if a statistical study is cited, the news items will give exact categories of serial related statistics available from the study. This is very helpful in determining whether to try to obtain the full report.

Two special monographic supplements to the journal have been issued: one on sex magazines (1979-80) and the other on serial automation (1981-82). In the recent double issue, volume 6, numbers 2/3, "Serials Librarianship as an Art: Essays in Honor of Andrew D. Osborn," comprised all of volume 6, number 3. This collection of essays made for interesting reading.

Serials Librarian has found its role and seems to take it seriously. It does not, for example, duplicate the kind of material available in *Serials Review*. The quality of the articles is good. The wide variety of subjects means that the reader will find most issues to include at least one article of high interest.

The *Serials Librarian* has a growing readership: subscriptions total 1,433 as of October 1982. It's not hard to see why. Because the journal chooses as its focus a class of library material, and not a type of library or single function, its appeal goes easily beyond the serialist. The reviewer hopes that the increasing use of the term

"serialist" in the journal does not forebode a title change.—NRJ.

Social Science Information Studies. Guildford, England: Butterworth Scientific Limited. V.1 no.1 (Oct. 1980), quarterly, \$37 (individuals), \$74 (institutions) per volume. ISSN 0143-6236.

Information science, in its early history, has been dominated by concern with science and technology. But information science itself has relied principally on insights and techniques of social science. To provide a forum for development of social science methodologies in information science and to foster understanding of information issues in the social sciences, Editor T.D. Wilson and Associate Editor Norman Roberts founded *Social Science Information Studies* (SSIS).

Most of what is published in the social sciences today involves quantification. SSIS follows this pattern and many of its best articles employ quantitative data and analysis. There are, on the other hand, valuable contributions that are as much epistemology as they are social science.

In the first issue, Wilson specifically solicited contributions that use qualitative methodologies. Thus far, most of the articles with this orientation have been somewhat disappointing. They have concentrated on the theory supporting qualitative work and on general discussion of procedures, and have lacked the impact of reports of actual findings of qualitative studies. An exception is Stella Maddock's article on information in housing assistance centers (1:31-46). More contributions like hers would be welcome.

Since most of the articles deal with the structure of scholarly information and its use by academics and other social science professionals, the journal could be of considerable interest to academic librarians. At the same time, many of the articles do not relate their findings to the issues that dominate mainstream library journals. Given that its price is well above average for a library journal, bibliographers and potential personal subscribers should be aware that SSIS is much more a social science than a library journal.—SEW.

Today's Office (formerly *Office Products News*). Garden City, N.Y.: Hearst Business Communications, Inc. V.16 no.8 (Jan. 1982), monthly. Distributed 12 times a year to executives in the administrative offices of major industrial, commercial and institutional organizations, and to qualified government offices. Out-of-field subscriptions \$30.00 per year. ISSN 0030-0241.

Although this publication is not directed toward librarians, it is of interest to any librarian who wishes to stay up-to-date in terms of new equipment and products in

data processing, photocopying, word processing, office communications, and records management. Articles are brief and well written. The magazine excels in reports summarizing and comparing the most important characteristics of a class of equipment or products, for example, electric typewriters, local area networks, microcomputers, microform readers, photocopy machines, etc. Although they do not provide test results, they are nearly always much more up-to-date than evaluations in *Library Technology Reports*.—LAS.

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