

Place: A Prototype?" While forty pages are too few to give a detailed understanding of the Pikes Peak Library District system, it does offer a paragraph or two about each of the various applications supported. The twenty-nine figures in chapter ten are very useful for understanding the complex mix of tasks Maggie's Place performs. As Dowlin suggests, the system probably "better approximates the model of the electronic library than any other . . . institution in the country" today.

Dowlin's book is an excellent starting point for someone new to electronic library concepts. It is a useful crib sheet for

public librarians trying to develop their own plans for the future. While not aimed primarily at academic librarians, they will nonetheless find it a source of quotable quotes and challenging ideas. Those planning for online catalogs will find it very useful in listing the varieties of information resources with which future library catalogs must cope.

The format is attractive, illustrations well chosen and well reproduced, typos infrequent, index good, and price quite reasonable.—*Brian Aveney, Blackwell North America.*

ABSTRACTS

The following abstracts are based on those prepared by the ERIC Clearinghouse of Information Resources, School of Education, Syracuse University.

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Further information on ordering documents and on current postage charges may be obtained from a recent issue of Resources in Education.

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Working Paper. Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio. Columbus Labs; Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. 1983. 60p. ED 232 646. MF—\$0.83; PC—\$4.82.

Based on observations made at the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS/BPH) on September 8, 9, and 10, 1982, and on documents supplied by NLS/BPH, this report compares standards published in the 1979 document entitled "Standards of Service for the Library of Congress Network of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped" with five areas of NLS/BPH operations: (1) organization, administration, budget, and planning; (2) personnel

and facilities; (3) resource development; (4) service to users; and (5) public education and information services. It is noted that NLS/BPH provides braille materials, cassettes, hard- and flexible-disk books, playback equipment and accessories, musical scores, books about music, and music instructional materials to eligible Americans living in the United States and abroad, by means of a cooperative network of libraries. The report states that NLS/BPH meets all the major standards for resource development and user service and that it meets or exceeds most of the other required standards. An NLS/BPH organizational chart and a list of nine recommendations for improving the internal operation of NLS/BPH and its service to the network are provided.

Back to the Books: Bibliographic Instruction and the Theory of Information Sources. Ed. by Ross Atkinson. Association of College and Research Libraries, Bibliographic Instruction Section, Chicago. 1983. 79p. ED 232 655 MF—\$0.83; PC—not available from EDRS.

This collection of four papers on the applicability of bibliographic theory to bibliographic instruction is introduced by Ross Atkinson, who sees a shift away from political and pedagogical concerns in bibliographic instruction. In "Pragmatic Bibliography," Patrick Wilson contrasts wholesale or comprehensive bibliography (the compilation of national and trade bibliographies, library catalogs, and abstracting and indexing journals) with pragmatic bibliography (the activity of one person engaged in a specific limited inquiry). Frances L. Hopkins, in "Bibliographic Instruction as a Liberal Art: An Ap-

plication of Patrick Wilson's Theory of Pragmatic Bibliography," presents a rationale for teaching bibliographic instruction as a liberal art and provides an outline of a proposed program of instruction in bibliographic inquiry. In his paper entitled "On the Nature of Literatures: A Synergetic Attempt," Conrad H. Rawski describes scientific and research literatures as a complex system of interconnected parts. A 123-item bibliography is included. In "Shaping a Bibliographic Instruction Program for Undergraduate Science Students: Applications of a Model of the Structure of the Scientific Literature," Thomas Kirk applies Rawski's theory to the design of an ideal program and presents an outline of such a program. A summary by Ross Atkinson of the four papers and background information on the speakers conclude the document.

Budget Allocation Systems for Research Libraries. By John Vasi. Association of Research Libraries, Washington, D.C. 1983. 58p. ED 232 657. MF—\$0.83; PC—not available from EDRS.

In July 1982, ten member libraries of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) were surveyed to obtain information on their existing

budget practices. Libraries participating in the study were the University of California-Santa Barbara; University of Chicago; University of Colorado; University of Florida; Iowa State University; Notre Dame University; Oklahoma State University; Stanford University; University of Wisconsin; and York University. This report examines how library budget allocations are determined at the ten institutions, particularly in the areas of personnel, acquisitions and binding, and operations expenditures. The budget process for base budgets as well as annual increases is described, and details of budget administration and flexibility are reported. In a review of issues underlying the budget practices in use, a compromise between the development of absolute standards and the present system of adherence to historical allocation levels is suggested. It is proposed that ratios of library support related to library use be utilized to calculate an index of relative library support. Report appendixes comprise: (1) a sample survey form; (2) a list of eleven suggested readings and resources; and (3) a copy of the March 1975 report of the ARL-ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) Joint Committee on University Library Standards (Revised), which provides additional perspectives on budget allocation systems.



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