A final note: it is fortunate that this manual is punched for a three-ring binder; the adhesive binding is so tight that in order to lay the book flat, its spine must be practically broken.—*Don Etherington, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin.*

Kantor, Paul B. *Objective Performance Measures for Academic and Research Libraries.* Washington, D.C.: Association of Research Libraries, 1984. 76 p. $25. ISBN 0-918006-09-0.

Dr. Paul Kantor, president of Tantalus, a library management consulting firm, has developed a set of library effectiveness measures which have been used in a number of ARL libraries and which ARL has asked him to present in this small volume for use in other libraries. Three measures are described in detail.

One measure is an estimate of the chances that a user coming to the library to obtain a particular title will be able to lay hands on the desired item (approximately 48 percent chance in ARL libraries). By doing this analysis, a library may learn how much of its performance failure is associated with (1) acquisitions, (2) user interaction with the catalog, and (3) circulation. Those patrons who are searching for specific items in the catalog are asked by survey workers if they will record on a form titles being sought. Before leaving the library, the patron then notes on the form whether the desired items were found and deposits the form in a collection box. Staff then follow through to determine causes of failure.

Other effectiveness measures described are (1) estimate of the time required to complete a particular process, such as obtaining and checking out a particular book; and (2) identification of bottlenecks in library processes by use of delay analysis.

These analyses are useful because they measure the performance of the library as a whole in a way that permits comparison with peer libraries. Some normative data for these measures are said to be available from Kantor.

This book is intended to serve as a guide to enable other libraries to carry out these procedures. However, as Kantor notes, in order to do this successfully, a library must be committed to self-evaluation and must also have available persons to serve as coordinators who have some research experience, some background in statistics, and considerable diplomatic skills.

Data carefully collected by use of these methods should be of benefit to a library in improving its public services.—*Marjorie E. Murfin, William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library, Ohio State University, Columbus.*

Kronick, David A. *The Literature of the Life Sciences: Reading, Writing, Research.* Philadelphia: ISI Press, 1985. 219p. $35. LC 85-4283. ISBN 0-89495-045-2.

David A. Kronick's extensive and varied experience as a medical librarian is evident in this highly personal introduction to the literature of the life sciences. Intended for the user of the literature, the book emphasizes useful information rather than reference or bibliographic sources. Consequently, Kronick's book complements standard sources such as *Smith's Guide to the Literature of the Life Sciences* (Burgess, 1980).

This work includes chapters on a wide variety of topics such as the historical development of the literature, the primary and secondary literature, characteristics of the literature, writing and publishing, indexing languages, citation indexing, searching, and personal information files. Kronick's interest in the history of science is evident in the abundance of information he provides on the development of scientific communication. In fact, his knowledge and fascination with the literature of science are present throughout the book. In a sense the book could as easily be entitled *The Literature of the Sciences.* While Kronick uses examples from the biomedical literature (predominantly medical), the subject matter of the book has equal applicability to other sciences as Kronick's extensive examples from physics and psychology confirm.

The book includes a list of 484 literature references. Both the references and examples in the text include works published as recently as 1983. Therefore, the contents