

Book Reviews



Criteria for Promotion and Tenure for Academic Librarians. Comp. Virginia Vesper and Gloria Kelley for the ACRL (Clip Note no. 26). Chicago: ALA, 1997. 143p. \$28.50, alk. paper (ISBN 0838979289). LC 97-39396.

The issues of promotion and tenure, as well as faculty status, for academic librarians have always been complex and at times controversial. This complexity is apparent in a review of the survey on which this volume is based; it highlights the differences and similarities between classroom faculty and academic librarians. Readers also are furnished with background and perspective on the various arguments that have evolved over the years concerning these issues.

The primary objective of the survey was to determine whether “librarians with faculty status have a greater opportunity for tenure and promotion than librarians with academic or professional status.” Those with and without academic rank, as well as librarians with and without faculty status, were surveyed. In addition to these findings, promotion and tenure criteria from some institutions of higher education were collected and compared.

Vesper and Kelley reproduce a number of the promotion and tenure documents from the academic institutions included in the survey. The book includes documents from public institutions such as Arizona State University, West Campus, and State University of New York (SUNY) at Plattsburgh, as well as private institutions such as Alfred University and Eckerd College. This material provides invaluable information about how peers from public, private, and unionized institutions are handling the (for the most part) subjective task of formulating promotion and tenure criteria. Knowledge and mastery of subject matter, effectiveness of teaching, scholarly ability, univer-

sity service, and the potential for continued growth are a few of the categories most commonly used to evaluate and assess librarians.

Both raw-number composites and percentages are given for all survey results. A particularly important feature of the survey is the correlation of degrees held to that of faculty rank (i.e., instructor, assistant professor, etc.). The usual question as to whether the MLS is considered the terminal degree at each of the respective institutions is included; respondents were also asked what degree should be required for librarians holding each faculty rank. Also included is a list of the names and addresses of CLIP Note Committee members and a two-page bibliography.

Vesper and Kelley have done a remarkable job in compiling ACRL CLIP Note no. 26. This volume will provide guidance for academic libraries and librarians who are in need of instruments or templates for their promotion and tenure review process. It will be indispensable for administrators and librarians interested in faculty status, tenure, or promotion for academic librarians.—*Felix E. Unaeze, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan.*

Fabian, Bernhard. *In Close Association: Research, Humanities, and the Library.* Trans. John J. Boll. Champaign: Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Univ. of Illinois (Occasional Papers, no. 208), 1998. 70p. \$12, alk. paper.

At the end of this booklet, the reader is informed that the publisher is consistently ranked as one of the top three library and information science programs in the United States, while its university is consistently ranked as one of the top universities. Woe to their respective, supposedly lower-ranked peers, after reading this mess of a study.