

gives attention to the commercial aspects of subscription publishing in Enlightenment France, suggesting that author and subscriber enter into a kind of social contract in which the subscriber (who may never be a reader of the work) pledges allegiance to the political, educational, or aesthetic purposes of the author. Raven's study of book exports to North America between 1750 and 1820 shows that books published in London continued to be the main source of reading material through the mid-nineteenth century. Even after printing houses had become established in the colonies, the large market for luxury items (i.e., the book beautiful) and the need to be connected to European "culture" and to one's native country helped sustain the overseas book trade. Black's fascinating survey of book purchases by fur traders in the Hudson's Bay Company in the Canadian Northwest discusses both institutional (i.e., library) and individual book-buying habits. As might be expected, personal collections were geared toward the practical; the Hudson's Bay Archives show an interest in scientific, nautical, and technical works, as well as in periodical publications. The collections in the post libraries were similarly dominated by science and technology early in the nineteenth century, but fiction and other types of leisure-reading materials came to dominate later on. Black's study is an interesting example of the way in which class, social background, and geographic location affect access to and choice of reading matter.

Bill Bell connects texts and exiles in his examination of Scottish emigrant readers in Canada, New Zealand, and Australia in the nineteenth century. He suggests that a "geography of communications" should supplement our recent studies on the "sociology of the text." His essay shows how immigrants (and the children of immigrants) created imagined communities with their homeland by importing books and newspapers into their new country, with the result that Scottish nationalism was alive and well from Edinburgh to Halifax to Detroit. Ian Willison scrutinizes

the fading away of British hegemony in contemporary literature in his essay on international literatures in English. Earlier histories of English literature classified the literatures of former colonies such as the United States, South Africa, and India with those of the mother country, but now the most creative (and distinguished) writing is emerging from outside the British Isles. A "post-imperial ... consortium of the humanities," among and within the former British, Spanish, and Portuguese colonies, says Willison, could be fruitful for both book historians and scholars of literature. *Across Boundaries* closes with a brief biographical tribute to George Saintsbury by Alan Bell. An "incidental" contribution to the conference, it makes the least significant contribution to this collection as a whole.

For most libraries, sadly, this book will be a marginal purchase. This is not a comment on the quality of the essays themselves but, rather, on the parochial view we in North American academic libraries have of our own collections. The study of books and reading is meant to transcend disciplinary boundaries, but we purchase books for our libraries based on their fit within traditional academic departments and their suitability for curricular use. Book and library studies are not among these departments, even at most of our library schools, and so this book will not find a home in most of our libraries. The authors of these essays are looking beyond local political, historical, and geographic boundaries; but we have become expert at focusing on local needs so that even a book about books will be unlikely to trespass the borders of our sensible, homogenized, library collections. Consider crossing some everyday boundaries and letting this small volume serve as a passport for a reader in your library.—*Cecile M. Jagodzinski, Illinois State University.*

Herrington, TyAnna K. *Controlling Voices: Intellectual Property, Humanistic Studies, and the Internet.* Foreword by David Jay Bolter. Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illi-

nois Univ. Pr., 2001. 171p. \$49.95, cloth (ISBN 0809323729); alk. paper, \$18.95, paper (ISBN 0809323737). LC 00-56287.

Would you like to know three seemingly harmless words that will make any academic cringe? “Intellectual property law.” This set of laws is often misunderstood and feared by academics, particularly by those in the humanities. The topic is especially relevant because we are living in the Information Age in which the ease of copying and publishing ideas occurs and proliferates in a very accessible public arena, the Internet. A simple misunderstanding of the law can have manifold and unpleasant legal implications.

Herrington, lawyer and assistant professor at Georgia Tech, has a Ph.D. in communication. Her varied educational background has proved to be good preparation for her presentation of highly specialized information in the simplest of terms. One of the best features of this book is the author’s nontechnical language used to explain intellectual property law in layman’s terms.

Herrington implores academics to participate in the discussion about these laws. Too often, it is large companies and politicians who are the major players in copyright legislation, rather than the scholars and artists who tend to be most affected by them. But it is not only academics, Herrington argues, but all citizens who need to be involved in this dialogue: “Intellectual products not only influence society but embody society ... intellectual products also make up, in large part, culture itself. Our ability to access them for learning and criticism in order to understand them and their influence and to speak to their meaning in our cultural development is fundamental to our ability to participate in society.”

Herrington correlates the conflicting interests of the academic and legal communities with their conflicting ideologies. The ideology of the academic world is like that of the Internet—one that favors egalitarian access to information. Both academia and the Internet are based on the free interchange of information, regardless

of ownership. By contrast, the legal community operates on what Herrington describes as a “romantic” view of property that emphasizes economic aspects and “produces imbalanced access to knowledge, and thus cultural development, in favor of wealthy corporate entities and a class of society with political power.”

Although the book’s intended audience is a general one including academics, the reading level seems to be advanced beyond the mere “general”; *Controlling Voices* is challenging reading. Despite the author’s lucid writing style, I still found myself re-reading certain passages in order to digest key vocabulary terms and legal information. The inclusion of a glossary would have been helpful. Herrington also is careful to describe the book’s limitations: “*Controlling Voices* provides information that readers may use to understand issues involving intellectual property, but it will *not* provide a legal road map for determining what actions they should take to prevent their own violations of the law or violations of their works by others.”

Herrington divides the book into two parts: “The Law” and “Ideology and Power.” The first part examines the pragmatic side of the law; she discusses both general concepts of law and the key court cases that have created the current, controlling law of intellectual property. In addition, she addresses issues associated with the Internet and online publishing. In the second part of the book, the author analyzes the political and social aspects of intellectual property law by “examining the policy issues that drive legal interpretations of the law.”

Herrington has written an understandable and useful explanation of the controlling law of intellectual property. She also has documented the “controlling voices” (corporations, lawyers, judges, legislators, etc.) that influence its evolution. *Controlling Voices* is well organized and provides readers with helpful notes and works-cited sections where one can refer to applicable Web sites, e-mail lists, court cases, articles, and books. It should be read by anyone

seeking a basic understanding of intellectual property law.—*Colleen Lougen, Mount Saint Mary College.*

Lancaster, F. W., and Amy Warner. *Intelligent Technologies in Library and Information Service Applications.* Medford, N.J.: Information Today (ASIS Monograph Series), 2000. Published for the American Society for Information Science and Technology. 214p. \$31.60 (members); \$39.50 (nonmembers) (ISBN 1573871036). LC 05-53951.

Ambivalence would seem to be an apt descriptor for *Intelligent Technologies in Library and Information Service Applications* by F. W. Lancaster and Amy Warner. The book is a review of the literature on artificial intelligence (AI) “and related technologies,” with an eye “on what can be applied today and what one might reasonably expect to be applicable to library and information services in the near future.” Professors Lancaster and Warner bring substantial experience and perspective to the effort. Lancaster, professor emeritus at the University of Illinois, is well known in the fields of information transfer, bibliometrics, bibliographic organization, and the evaluation of library and information services. Warner is a thesaurus designer with Argus Associates and a former associate professor at the University of Michigan. Her expertise is in digital library and search engine design and evaluation. To give away the ending, their answer to the question, To what extent can libraries apply AI today or in the near future? is, essentially, very little.

Lancaster and Warner define AI operationally: “those who work in the field seek to develop computer systems capable of doing some of the things that humans now do better.” This involves the capacity to exhibit humanlike characteristics, including reasoning and learning from experience. The goal is to deploy systems that can supplement human expertise in defined task areas. A useful taxonomy by Ralph Alberico and Mary Micco (*Expert Systems for Reference and Information Re-*

trieval [Meckler, 1990]) is used to organize the discussion. AI moves outward from symbolic processing through four major techniques—pattern matching, search, knowledge representation, and inference—and is applied to a variety of areas. Expert systems, an application area associated largely with inference, receives most of the attention, partly because of its ubiquity, but also due to the fact that “all implementations of AI within the library field itself are of the expert system type.” Classically defined expert systems consist of three components: a knowledge base, an inference engine, and a user interface. As the “intermediary” between database and user, the inference engine is the distinguishing component of an expert system: “it operates on the knowledge in the knowledge base, frequently through a series of pre-established rules, in order to interact with the user, presenting questions, reminders, recommendations and suggested answers or solutions.”

The authors move briskly from definitions into the literature. In four chapters, they travel from library literature through “Applications Closely Related to Library Problems,” and “Applications from Other Fields” to “General Technologies.” They conclude with a discussion of this literature’s applicability to libraries and information services. Four appendices outline methodology, sources for further investigation, and, interestingly, reprints of decision tools for evaluating the applicability of expert systems for particular tasks. Their method involved searches in the appropriate databases, followed by survey questions and phone and/or e-mail contact with authors.

Chapter one surveys expert systems applied to cataloging, subject indexing, collection-building, and reference. It reviews a large number of projects, including quite a few at name-brand institutions. A pattern emerges—an interesting application area is identified, a system is prototyped, it shows some promise. Then, it is abandoned because results do not quite compare with human labor, the effort to maintain the knowledge base be-