

literature dealing with phonorecord libraries, however, this book is probably a valid investment. It is unfortunate that such a mass of material is currently nonexistent. For academic libraries, especially those outside Great Britain, its value as a guide to future record libraries and librarians may be justly contested.—*Christopher Barnes, Cornell University.*

**The Uses of the University.** By Clark Kerr. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1963. 140p. \$2.95. (63-20770).

In the 1963 Godkin lectures at Harvard, President Kerr of the University of California described the many changes that have occurred in universities of the United States during the past twenty years or so. All of us have known that universities have grown larger. We have known that great sums of money have poured in to support research and teaching projects of all sorts, large and small. Many of us have not fully realized, however, that the changes have been so extensive as to produce almost a new institution whose activities are so varied that new names are required for it. Kerr uses "federal grant university" as one term, but his most distinctive name is "the multiversity." This complex and sprawling organization, he says, has no single animating purpose and is often serving divergent or even conflicting aims, but it has developed out of historical necessity. "It is an imperative rather than a reasoned choice among elegant alternatives."

The demand that has called forth the multiversity is, Kerr says, the increasingly crucial need for knowledge in our society. Academic institutions as the keystone of the "knowledge industry" have been required and will be required to respond to society's urgent demands for information and for expert capabilities.

Kerr's book is interesting, informative, and provocative. Every reader will see in it the implications that most affect him. This reviewer was particularly concerned by Kerr's tendency to acquiesce and even to see merit in confusion and lack of plan. He mistrusts Grand Designs. He prefers confusion "for the sake of the preservation of the whole uneasy balance" of an academic institution. He describes the university pres-

ident as a mediator playing off power groups against each other, not as a leader wielding power to accomplish his own objectives. He thinks federal grants are more wisely awarded on the basis of "intuitive imbalance" than on the basis of "bureaucratic balance." Although he expresses some of his opinions in a bantering way and none without explicit or implied reservation, he seems to underestimate both the capacity of a university to control its own destiny and the dangers of failing to do so.

No element of the university is more directly or adversely affected by failures in institutional planning and direction than the library. In Germany, as Danton has recently reminded us, the professors, provided with ample funds under their sole control, created institute libraries that largely duplicate and supersede the university libraries. The government and foundation grants of recent years raise the possibility, for the first time on a large scale in the United States, that professors, having funds at their disposal outside the customary institutional channels, may now set up similar rivals to the university libraries. Academic librarians must be prepared to act and react wisely, creating new services where they are justified and resisting forcefully and persuasively where they are not. One of the significant developments of the next few years will be the intensification of the trend toward new library facilities arranged, not on a traditional subject basis but on a project basis, whether that be a geographical area of the world, an uncommon language, or a new scientific application. In order to plan and to act wisely, librarians will need to be well informed about recent and future trends. Kerr's book is an excellent beginning step.

No one with any concern for higher education can afford to miss this book; anyone who reads it will profit.—*W. L. Williamson, Columbia University.*

#### **Protecting the Library and Its Resources.**

ALA Library Technology Project. (LTP Publications, No. 7.) Chicago: ALA, 1963. xv, 322p. \$6. (63-19683).

This excellent report of a study undertaken by the Library Technology Project has been well publicized, widely distributed, and so generously reviewed elsewhere that