# Book Reviews

**The Computer and the Library.** By N. S. M. Cox, J. D. Dews, and J. L. Dolby. Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1967. 95 pp. $4.50.

For a field which has been captivated by the promise and lure of automatic data processing, it is surprising how little librarianship has to show for this preoccupation insofar as its own documentation is concerned. The literature of particular practices in individual institutions goes on and on, seemingly in an endless stream, but the number of books, pamphlets, or other documents which generalize or genuinely assess or analyze the uses of the technology for library applications is very thin indeed. This slender little volume, first published at the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne as their library publication No. 4 in September 1966, comes therefore as a welcome addition.

The book serves to introduce the library reader to the "role of the computer in the organization and handling of information in libraries." In this volume there is packed a great deal of good sense and enterprising thinking, beginning from the back of the title page, where the authors have quoted from W. T. Williams in Barbara Kyle's *Focus on Information and Communication* to good effect, upon central differences between the needs and uses of computers and of men. Those who spend some time with this volume, and any librarian committed to tomorrow rather than yesterday will want to do so, are encouraged not to miss the quotation from the Kyle volume.

The introduction to the work sets the stage well for its content. It is written by Frederick G. Kilgour of Yale University library, who has himself contributed appreciably to generalized understanding of applications and implications of computer uses in library for repetitive processing activity. The volume grows out of the effort at Newcastle-Upon-Tyne where one of the authors is a computer expert, another a librarian, and the third a statistician concerned with the problems of interrelating librarians and computers. The emphasis throughout the book is upon providing the detailed means whereby manual procedures may be converted to more automatic processes using contemporary technology. Unlike many more extended treatments, this monograph is precise and always to the point. From this work the reader will better understand the background of libraries as they relate to utilization of machinery. There is a discussion of the limits and opportunities provided through the use of computers; their use in acquisitions and cataloging, and the printing of catalogs. The prospects for libraries of using machines for information and reference requirements are treated. Finally, the general dimensions of the library problem and the prospects for new developments in computer technology and their implications for librarianship are explored.

Of course, the value of any such work is in some measure a function of the sophistication which the reader brings to the task. In the present volume, the requirements for sophistication are limited. The reading of this book will reward any librarian who takes the time to work his way through, since a good deal of sound and useful thinking is provided about the whys and wherefores, the promise and the limits of the technology.

In this book, several individuals who have worked together and accumulated experience in both computer applications and in librarianship, offer a clear and meaningful explanation of the potential role of the machinery in terms of library and library related activities. The work is a must for the bookshelf of the librarian who is concerned about the ways in which computers can and will influence the performance of his tasks; it will be of special interest to academic librarians.—*Paul Wasserman, University of Maryland.*

**The Community Junior College; an annotated bibliography.** Ed. by Emory W. Rarig. New York: Teachers College Press, Teachers College, Columbia University, 1966. 114 pp. $4. (66-29990).

This bibliography is the product of the Program for the Training of Administrators

for Community and Junior Colleges established March 4, 1960, at the Teachers College, Columbia University, with the aid of a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Three aims of the project were: (1) to prepare an increasing number of young administrators for the community and junior colleges; (2) to provide coordinated professional development (in-service and refresher) opportunities for persons already in administrative positions; and (3) to provide a program of research and service.

One of the first problems identified was the absence of an up-to-date selective bibliography in the community junior college field. In order to solve the problem, students of two advanced seminars during the spring and autumn semesters of 1965 prepared an annotated bibliography. The editor, Emory W. Rarig, Jr., administrative assistant in the Center for Community Colleges, Teachers College, refined the compilation which appears in this volume. In the foreword the director of the Center for Community Colleges, Walter E. Sindlinger, cautions that "this effort represents merely a beginning," and that it is hoped that future seminars will continue to update and expand the work into the "selective, annotated directory to the important community junior college literature and research works" originally planned.

Bibliographies are presented for eight subjects: (1) history of the community junior college; (2) functions and purposes of the community junior college; (3) organization and administration of community junior colleges; (4) community junior college students; (5) community junior college programs; (6) community junior college personnel; (7) community junior college facilities; (8) research in the community junior college.

For these topics there are 391 entries, some of which are duplicated within the eight sections. Two hundred eighty-seven authors (including associations) are listed in the author index. An annotated bibliography of research tools precedes the main bibliography.

Criteria for the selectivity within each of the eight subjects is not cited. This would have been helpful to the user in determining the time scope of selection. Journal articles and books are included. It is pointed

out in the foreword that many of the major works in higher education have been excluded since the references chosen deal directly with the community junior college. Spot checks indicate that the annotations are well done.

The organization of the entries into subject areas, although limited, is a contribution to bibliographic literature.—*Harriett Genung, Mt. San Antonio College.*

***The Brasenose Conference on the Automation of Libraries.*** Ed. by John Harrison, and Peter Laslett. London: Mansell, 1967. 173 pp. $6.50 (66-30544).

As explained in the preface, this volume contains the papers presented at the Anglo-American Conference on the Mechanization of Libraries held in Oxford, England, June 30 to July 3, 1966. More commonly referred to as the Brasenose Conference, it brought together some sixty-five British and American librarians and others concerned with the application of computers to libraries and library work. The three days at Brasenose College marked a historic venture in trans-Atlantic cooperation. The British also emphasized that the event was equally historic in the resulting cooperation between the British Museum and the librarians at Oxford and Cambridge. An excellent summary of the conference from the American point of view appears in the Library of Congress Information Bulletin, July 14, 1966, Appendix I.

Ten papers, none previously published, are presented along with the four speeches at the opening dinner. The actual discussion following each paper has been partly reproduced, and the volume concludes with a discussion of future activities by the conference participants. The editors plead that they have taken ". . . drastic action with the verbatim transcript. Speeches have been compressed, sentences rearranged, grammar amended, and whole areas of discussion completely left out."

It is true that often far more is spoken than goes well into print, and what is said often records badly. It is for these reasons and in order to publish as quickly as possible that the editors claim this approach.

Unfortunately, under these circumstances there was no question of reproducing the slides which accompanied some of the pres-