

of *Catalogues of Libraries* includes all thirty-nine of the rules and a substantial portion of the preliminary essay. The omissions from the latter are mainly lengthy quotations supporting Jewett's arguments in addition to the seven opening pages repeating (from other sources included) his plan for stereotyping the catalog entries. The omission of the two pages on the "Preparation of Titles so as to Serve for both General and Particular Catalogues" is to be regretted, however, as important to later cataloging codes on such matters as editions, copies, and size.

The book is a valuable source for those not having access to the complete works. Nevertheless this reviewer was somewhat disappointed, especially by the quality of Harris' essay. It is more a biographical than a "substantive critical" essay and its tone is more panegyric than critical. Furthermore, a more sophisticated style might be expected from a writer of Harris' experience.—*Edith Scott, The Library of Congress.*

Goodell, John S. *Libraries and Work Sampling*. (Challenge to Change: Library Applications of New Concepts, no.1) Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1975. 60p. \$5.00 pa. (LC 74-79026) (ISBN 0-87287-087-1)

Goodell's book is an auspicious beginning for this new series, giving an easy-to-understand presentation of a technical subject. For those unfamiliar with the topic, an example of work sampling is the use of statistical methods to determine the percentages of the total time circulation clerks spend on their various duties. The information obtained can then be used to establish a better work schedule. Properly performed, work sampling can be a valuable management tool for making more effective use of limited resources.

The author does a commendable job of presenting a library-oriented introduction to work sampling. He first reviews the theory of sampling and then explains the five steps of a typical study. There are numerous examples, tables of statistical information, clear instructions for using the tables, and finally there is a review of the literature of sampling as applied to li-

braries. Statistical terminology and mathematics have been kept to a minimum, and few people will have trouble understanding the material.

This compact book must be read with great care: Its brevity leaves too little room for discussion of areas where the beginner may encounter problems. One can obtain poor results through the use of a biased sample, or through failure to define the problem properly, or through a lack of approval and cooperation by the people concerned. Goodell touches on these areas, but his warnings are not strong enough. Inaccurate work sampling studies can have harmful effects that may be difficult to overcome.

With proper regard for the techniques of work sampling, almost anyone can produce useful studies with only a little experience. Goodell's book is an excellent one for the librarian or graduate student interested in learning the basics, but further information will be necessary. Detailed guidance on making and using work sampling studies will have to come from experienced practitioners and through studying the publications the author lists in his bibliography.—*Edward Gibson, Assistant Librarian, Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland.*

Davies, D. W. *Public Libraries as Culture and Social Centers: The Origin of the Concept*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1974. 167p. \$6.00. (LC 74-8420) (ISBN 0-8108-0738-6)

David W. Davies, long an academic librarian and a historian and typophile as well, here turns a critical, somewhat ironical eye on the relationship between goals and programs of public libraries in Great Britain and North America. On the basis of both his particular point of view and his research—which is stronger for the early nineteenth century than for later years, especially our own time—he sees public libraries as having been diverted from their legitimate function, the provision of books and a place to read, by a faulty conception of their social role. Though he promises to follow the progress of scholarly along with popular libraries, the entire book, except for a few paragraphs, is devoted to the latter; there is no attention given to the re-