

the experienced professional will find this both an excellent place to review or to "brush up" and to begin an extended study of a particular phase of his vocation. A minor annoyance to this reviewer is the form in which the notes appear: only author, title, and the particular page or pages are listed. To get the full citation involves an unnecessary, separate trip to the bibliography, where the author entry must be checked.

This minor matter aside, Fred C. Cole and the Council on Library Resources (who supported the research); the Association for State and Local History, which published the volume; and most of all Ken Duckett, are to be congratulated for producing this very fine addition to library and archival literature.—*Clyde C. Walton, Northern Illinois University.*

Cowley, John, ed. *Libraries in Higher Education: The User Approach to Service*. Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books, 1975. 163p. \$11.50. (ISBN 0-208-013710-7)

Libraries in Higher Education is not, as the title implies, a study of libraries in all institutions of higher education, but is actually a series of essays by the staff of the North London Polytechnic reflecting the special concerns of polytechnic libraries. The British polytechnic institution as it stands today exists as a counterbalance to the university in the British system of higher education. First defined in a 1966 White Paper, entitled *A Plan for Polytechnics and Other Colleges*, which initiated their formation through amalgamation of colleges of commerce, technology, design, and art, the polytechnics have swiftly evolved into institutions which satisfy the utilitarian needs of society, offer scheduling more flexible than that of the universities in order to meet the needs of the mid-career student, and now are beginning to move toward research and the liberal arts.

The introductory essay in the volume by the editor gives a brief survey of the evolution of the polytechnic as an institution; but it is somewhat difficult for the non-British librarian unfamiliar with the traditions of British higher education and its attendant acronyms.

The volume proper is divided into two parts: "Promoting Library Use" and "Subject Specialisation." Part one includes chapters on "Organising for Reader Services," "Public Relations and Publicity," "Non-print Media," and "Teaching Library Use." While these essays are sincere descriptions of the working situations of librarians attempting to render quality service with insufficient funding, they tend to be reiterations of topics that have received more extensive and better treatment elsewhere in the professional literature. That is, they spring from the need for polytechnic librarians to describe services they render, but they do not dwell on the polytechnic experience per se as much as on the problems that beset librarians everywhere.

The last essay in part one, "Teaching Library Use," is of particular interest because it does attempt to delineate the British experience and the polytechnic approach to library instruction. In this article Nancy Hammond discusses the two distinct types of reader instruction that have developed in the polytechnic: that of the tutor-librarian responsible for all library instruction throughout the institution and that of the subject specialist who teaches in his or her area of expertise in addition to other duties.

The second part of this book, "Subject Specialisation," outlines the activities of the subject specialist: provision, exploitation, teaching library use, and professional awareness. The specialist is a member of the library staff designated to develop one or more aspects of a library's collection and the array of services connected with it.

While *Libraries in Higher Education* gives some insight into the polytechnic situation, its lack of focus on the specific experience and emphasis on general library problems undercut its usefulness. As source material for students it is of minimal value because of its scanty unclassified bibliography and omission of bibliographical footnotes and index. Because very little literature exists on the polytechnic library, this volume will provide an elementary introduction to the subject until a more comprehensive study is written.—*Kathleen M. Heim, Director of Public Services, Rebecca Crown Library, Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois.*