

ject "Sociology." This collection is described in a half page as a "strong subject in the Research Libraries," with a few details given about the personal papers in the collection of some outstanding women, commentary on donors to the collection, and figures given for the number of entries (12,000) in the catalog under "Woman." Reference is made to holdings in the category concerned with the feminist movement.

To inform the readers of this review what the volume is *not* seems also to be in order. It is *not* a checklist, a bibliography, a union list, a catalog. Few specific titles are mentioned except to make reference to manuscripts, outstanding works, or extremely rare items. The volume is *not* a history of the Research Libraries of the New York Public Library. For historical treatises on the great NYPL, please be referred to works by Harry M. Lydenberg and Phyllis Dain. It is *not*, as previously stated, an absolutely complete reflection of every collection held by the Research Libraries.

The guide is a needed new addition to library research tools so important today when computers, TWX lines, and other rapid communication media bind us ever closer and make an immediate response almost necessary instead of only desirable. But one wonders why ALA put such a high price tag on the volume, particularly since philanthropy played a large part in bringing it into being. Perhaps there is some reason not known to us. But, nevertheless, a vote of thanks to Williams, Jackson, Henderson, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Emily E. F. Skeel, et al.—*Roscoe Rouse, University Librarian, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.*

Salmon, Stephen R. *Library Automation Systems*. Books in Library and Information Science, vol. 15. New York: Marcel Dekker, 1975. 291p. \$24.50. (LC 75-25168) (ISBN 0-8247-6358-0)

The author's purpose for this book is to present "a reasonably comprehensive discussion of library automation systems for the librarian without previous knowledge or experience in the field, and for the intelligent layman." The approach is historical; systems covered range from the pio-

neering ones to those in production at the moment the manuscript was submitted. Only systems that were implemented (even if they failed or were discontinued) or are in operation are included. Projects or systems not operational are omitted from both the discussion and the bibliography. The discussion is limited to automated technical services and circulation activities. Computer-supported reference and information services are not discussed.

This is not a book on *how* to automate a library. Each type of system is "discussed from a general historical viewpoint" so as to show "the implications of various developments in each category." Thus, the lesson for the reader is in the examination of what has been implemented, what has failed, what has become obsolete, and what has succeeded.

The book is divided into ten chapters: (1) Background and Beginnings; (2) Acquisition Systems; (3) Cataloging Systems before MARC; (4) MARC and Off-line Systems after MARC; (5) On-line Cataloging Systems; (6) The Effect of Automation on Cataloging Practice; (7) Serials Systems; (8) Circulation Systems; (9) The Problems of Library Automation Systems; and, (10) The Prospects of Library Automation Systems.

Each chapter on systems begins with a list of general characteristics: typical activities, functions, outputs, and limitations. Specific systems are discussed in roughly chronological order, beginning with unit record-based systems and ending with on-line systems. Commercially produced and marketed systems are also included. The discussion of most systems is necessarily brief, but usually covers: type of equipment used (including terminals), cost of development, per-unit operating costs (when available), outputs, programming language, method of producing outputs (e.g., COM for book catalogs), filing rules used, successes, and failures. By intention, the author does not explore how data processing equipment works, just what equipment is used in each system.

Each chapter ends with an extensive list of notes that comprise a helpful bibliography for further reading on each system. At the end of the book, there is a bibliog-

raphy arranged by type of application. Citations are listed within application in reverse chronological order.

The chapter on problems is general; it is organized around the difficulties of three groups of people: computer center and systems personnel, suppliers of hardware and software, and librarians. Three other types of problems are also discussed: poor planning, poor design, and poor implementation.

The final chapter on prospects touches on networks, standards, minicomputers, commercial systems, and future developments. This chapter is short, general, and not especially insightful, but may stimulate questions from those beginning their examination of library automation systems and trends.

In summary, the book is easy and interesting reading. It contains a wealth of information presented in a free-flowing, pleasant manner and is a good starting point for those desiring an orderly review of what has gone on before. Also, the author and publisher succeeded in publishing material that was as timely as possible up to the point of publication. However, the \$24.50 price tag is going to be hard to swallow.—*Eleanor Montague, Project Director, Western Network Project, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.*

Cole, John Y., ed. *Ainsworth Rand Spofford: Bookman and Librarian*. The Heritage of Librarianship Series, no. 2. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1975. 203p. \$11.50. (LC 75-31517) (ISBN 0-87287-117-7)

In the foreword to this volume, series editor Michael Harris indicates that the subject of this book is "the rise of the Library of Congress to a position of unrivaled supremacy among American libraries" (p.5). That rise was the work of Ainsworth Rand Spofford. His own writings and the introductory background describe what he did for the Library of Congress.

John Y. Cole is, perhaps, preeminently qualified to edit this volume and to discuss Spofford's career. Cole's doctoral dissertation is entitled "Ainsworth Spofford and the National Library," and he has written seven

lengthy articles about the Library of Congress and Spofford. Part I of this work is a well-documented, precisely written history of Spofford's professional life. These details provide the background necessary to establish the context of the selections presented in Part II. The important features of Spofford's philosophy about the library and his profession are also highlighted in this summary. A skillful use of quotations encourages the reader to move directly and willingly into the selection of writings.

Part II is one of the most pleasant surprises this reviewer has had recently. Spofford was an opinionated, articulate person who had clearly defined goals and equally definite methods of achieving them. No librarian today would agree with all of his ideas. But any discussion about reference service or the role of the Library of Congress or book selection or the qualifications of a librarian or even classification could be vigorously stimulated by a reading of these essays. Would you characterize the Library of Congress as the "book palace of the American people" (p.43)? Spofford did, in 1899. He also saw the public library as the "people's university" (p.22). "Everyone seeking to know anything, should find the librarian a living catalogue" (p.152), he concluded.

Several of his writings may offer "new" solutions to hoary problems. His "First Annual Report" could serve as a model for a librarian describing library needs to a non-librarian supervisor. Present-day administrators might find that his arguments for more space in "A 'Wholly Distinct' Library Building" could be used with great effectiveness. ALA's GODORT members will want to read his memo on "An Index to the Documents and Debates of Congress."

Librarians and library school students should read this book and study this man's ideas. The volume is a necessary acquisition for collections concerned with library history and library philosophy. John Y. Cole has reestablished an important figure in our professional heritage.—*Judy H. Fair, Director of the Library, The Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.*

Martin, Susan K., and Butler, Brett, eds. *Library Automation: The State of the*