

tive artistic, architectural, graphic, and library expertise of more than twenty-five authors, whose training and background fully qualify them to advise on library sign systems. As librarians become increasingly more aware of the need to train their patrons to use libraries more efficiently and effectively, the need for attractive and carefully planned directional signs and other devices to guide and inform the user becomes more and more apparent.

In buildings under construction, librarians have the opportunity to make an important contribution to the planning of directional graphics. In older buildings, the librarian must often attempt to bring some order to the chaos of accumulated signs or to impose a logical system on an illogical geography without the aid of architects or graphic designers. This book succeeds in discussing the issues involved in a variety of settings and in proposing solutions to problems that often require expertise and abilities not usually found on library staffs.

The chapter topics indicate the scope and variety of the authors' approaches: orientation needs and the library setting; mazes, minds, and maps; perceiving the visual message; planning library signage systems; the role of the design consultant; sign materials and methods; the language of signs; signs for the handicapped patron; symbol signs for libraries; evaluating signage systems in libraries; signs and the school media center; an approach to public library signage; signs in special libraries; a signage system for a university library; low-budget guidance ideas; wayfinding in research libraries: a user's view; coordinating graphics and architecture; architectural techniques for wayfinding; designing open-stack areas for the user; effective library signage: a pictorial study; and technical and psychological considerations for sign systems in libraries.

An annotated bibliography on visual guidance systems offers further reading on theory and research, materials and techniques, and on such systems in libraries and in other institutions.

Barbara Marks's humorous essay on the language of signs should not be confined to this one printing, nor the soundness of her advice lost in her amusing examples. Kitty Selfridge's advice on planning library sign-

age systems imposes upon the library scene graphic design that is common in other types of modern buildings, but rare in libraries. The pictorial study of effective library signage, contributed by the Institute of Signage Research, demonstrates that some libraries—even some of the staid old Gothic piles—have solved their signage problems in creative and exciting ways.

The exclusive use of black and white photographs in a book describing the inventive use of color graphics is an economy that should never have been permitted, but, regardless of this one slight failing, *Sign Systems for Libraries* breaks new ground and should be on every librarian's reading list.—Malcolm C. Hamilton, *Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

The British Library Bibliographic Services

Division. Leeds Polytechnic School of Librarianship; produced in collaboration with the Educational Technology Unit. Tape/Slides in Library Science, No.3. Series title on cassette: Talking to Librarians, no. TS/3. Leeds, The School, 1978. 76 slides, colored, 2 in. by 2 in., & cassette, script, and brochures. £35. Order from: Administrative Assistant (Post Experience Courses), School of Librarianship, Leeds Polytechnic, 28 Park Place, Leeds LS1 2SY.

The Bibliographic Services Division of the British Library is responsible for the bibliographic control of all materials received in the library, whether print or nonprint, and for bibliographic and cataloging services available to libraries and librarians throughout Great Britain and abroad.

The division produces six bibliographic tools, *British National Bibliography (BNB)*, *Books in English*, *International Serials Data System Bulletin*, *British Education Index*, *British Library Automated Information Services (BLAISE)*, a computerized information retrieval and cataloging system, and *British Catalogue of Music*.

Through a tape service, interested libraries may acquire the catalog records produced in the division. Each library has a choice between three types of service. The complete or exchange tape is a weekly service that contains a complete record of all

entries appearing in that week's issue of *BNB*. The selective tape, also a weekly service, contains only records of publications that the library states it intends to purchase or has already purchased. The third service is the local cataloging service, which is issued on microform at stated intervals; with this service a library may specify the records it wishes to receive as well as the amount of data each record should contain. Cataloging in publication is also a responsibility of this division.

All these activities are described in the tape-slide program, which explains how the data are assembled and distributed. The presentation does not provide a comprehensive coverage of the activities in the various components of the division, only an overview of the division's work. This is why the informative pamphlets on the products and activities of the division that are included in the package are of great value and deserve attention.

The twenty-five minute sound cassette, which is accompanied by a printed text, is concise, pertinent, and well written. Several voices are heard on it, and the end result is a pleasing variety of clear enunciation.

The seventy-six slides, on the other hand, are not of comparable quality. They generally exhibit a lack of imagination, have a tendency to be repetitious, and are insufficient in number. Slides of cataloging records, however, are exceptionally clear, with artistically designed and positioned arrows that direct the viewer's attention to the relevant data. A considerable number of slides simply present, in visual form, portions of the text on the accompanying sound cassette that the producers felt should be reinforced.

Even though the objective of the tape-slide program is never mentioned, it is clear from the slides used to reinforce the content of the accompanying tape and from the lengthy pauses on it that the package is intended as a teaching device. As this package is unlikely to be used as a teaching tool in this country, librarians many find these instructional techniques irritating. At thirty-five pounds, the package is an expensive means of acquiring information about the profession that can be obtained from a thorough perusal of the library literature.—*Judith P. Cannan, Washington, D. C.*

The Role of Women in Librarianship, 1876-1976: The Entry, Advancement, and Struggle for Equalization in One Profession. By Kathleen Weibel and Kathleen M. Heim, with assistance from Dianne J. Ellsworth. A Neal-Schuman Professional Book. Phoenix, Ariz.: Oryx Press, 1979. 510p. \$14.95. LC 78-27302. ISBN 0-912700-01-7.

In spite of, or because of, its length, the title of this book does not tell us that it is an anthology and a comprehensive, annotated bibliography. As such, it encompasses a wide variety of sources and styles, out of which the compilers dissect seven broad types of writing: (1) opinion pieces pro and con the presence of women in the profession, (2) exhortations on how to be good women librarians, (3) descriptions of women's status in librarianship, (4) statistical studies including data on women, (5) statistical studies that focus solely on women, (6) regularly published news items or features, and (7) historical or sociological studies of the role of women in the field.

A preface tells us of the book's conception and gestation. An introduction reviews the varying professional and social climates within which women assumed their equivocal preponderance in librarianship. An alphabetized set of biographical notes follows on the contributors of the forty-four articles that have been chosen from British and American sources. These articles are arranged in five historical periods: "1876-1900—Emergence of an Organized Profession"; "1901-1921—The Move toward Suffrage"; "1922-1940—Between the Wars"; "1941-1965—World War II and After"; and "1966-1976—The Second Feminist Movement."

The bibliography, with its own introduction and three indexes (subject, author, and title) occupies the final two-fifths of the volume. It was compiled by searching *Cannons, Library Literature*, special lists such as the bibliography of the SSRT Task Force on Women and those appended to substantial works on the subject, in addition to special journal indexes, e.g., for the *Library Association Record* and *Library Journal*. The entries are arranged first by year, then by season and month, except that letters responding to articles, etc., are cited with the