

ularly useful to anyone who operates or plans to operate a fee-based information service. It should also be read by public, academic, and special librarians, however, as it explains exactly why people are willing to pay for some kinds of information even though others are available without charge. Furthermore, the book is delightfully calm in tone: unlike some of the literature in this field, it predicts the demise of no institution of any kind.—Haynes McMullen, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*.

Research on the Impact of a Computerized Circulation System on the Performance of a Large College Library. Part One: The Main Library. Report on National Science Foundation Grant no. IST 78-10821 for the period September 15, 1978—June 1, 1980. Prepared by Katherine A. Frohberg and William A. Moffett. Order no. PB 81-199549. Oberlin, OH: Oberlin College Library, 1981. 89p. \$9.50 paper; \$3.50 microfiche.

This report, prepared to satisfy contractual requirements of the funder, the National Science Foundation, should not have been published in its present form. In terms of meaningful content there is only enough material for a journal article. For eighty-nine pages printed only on one side, with large type, wide margins, and amateurishly drawn graphs, a price tag of \$9.50 seems excessive.

Oberlin College used "the occasion of the introduction of an automated circulation system in 1978 to study certain measures of library performance." These measures include availability, building use, visits to the library, number of checkouts, required time to charge a book, and patron attitudes. These are not new measures, nor are the methods new. Paul Kantor, who served as a consultant to the study, has already published much of this material.

Treatment of the findings from the study is uneven. For example, chapter five includes a twenty-five-item questionnaire given to Oberlin students. The following chapter contains a very technical discussion of modeling variables including those from the questionnaire. Yet the responses from the questionnaire are not discussed until chapter eight, and then, only four of the questions are analyzed.

Basically the study found that availability and accessibility improved as a result of automation. Student's favorable attitudes toward the library declined with the introduction of the system but improved as checkout time decreased.—Ellen Altman, *University of Arizona, Tucson*.

Rink, Evald. *Technical Americana: A Checklist of Technical Publications Printed Before 1831*. Millwood, N.Y.: Kraus International Pubs., 1981. \$60. LC 81-4036. ISBN 0-527-75447-1.

This is a pioneer treatment of the subject and as such is an important reference work for those concerned with the early history of technology and industrial development in the United States. The 6,065 titles and editions are grouped chronologically within seventy-five subheadings. The subheadings are in turn gathered under twelve main headings: general works, technology, agriculture, crafts and trade, medical technology, military technology, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, manufacturing, mining and mineral production, sea transportation and inland transportation. The scope is restricted to books published in this country prior to 1831, both original works and reprints of British or translations of continental writers. It is a record of the literature of technology produced by American publishers for the use of Americans. The largest portion (85 percent) are nineteenth-century publications. The largest main heading is "Inland Transportation," which occupies one third of the work. "Agriculture" is the next largest with 14 percent.

The author explicitly states that this is not a bibliographical study of individual items, but an effort to make the publications listed "available to the users". Descriptions are therefore "limited to essential features sufficiently complete for their identification." They consist of a main entry, the title shortened where appropriate, and an imprint in a standardized form which gives place, printer or publisher, and date. The collation is in a library format. In some cases there is an additional note when the title information is not complete. Although thirty-four bibliographies are listed as references, each entry has only one bibliographical citation, preferably to an imprint bibliography such as Evans,