

There are occasional lapses, as when they refer to "a flair of unreality," or fail to attribute a comment to an initial, rather than to a secondary source. Their view of education is wholesome and holistic. Since all are or were (Bailey, evidently the mentor of the group of authors, is dead) associated with schools of education, their defense of teachers and clear recognition of their special problems are expected and understandable. Less clear, as noted earlier, is what the audience for this book may be. While one might wish to skim over some of the more detailed comments, the lay reader should find the book provocative and informative. The pity is that multiple copies of this book are likelier to be found on the shelves of academic or professional libraries rather than in the "Current and Choice" bins of public libraries where they would have a good chance to find the literate, concerned audience the book is meant to reach.—Peggy Sullivan, *College of Professional Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.*

***The Right to Information: Legal Questions and Policy Issues.*** Ed. by Jana Varlejs.

Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1984. 88p. \$9.95. LC 83-26750. ISBN 0-89950-097-8.

It is in the maelstrom of current controversy about access to published information that one can appreciate *The Right to Information*. *The Right to Information* is the published proceedings of the twenty-first annual symposium sponsored by the alumni and faculty of the Rutgers Graduate School of Library and Information Science held on April 1, 1982. The book consists of four essays and an extensive bibliography about right-to-information issues. The latter emphasizes such issues as access to government information, the right to privacy, private versus public sector competition in the dissemination of information, censorship, and the role of technology. What is remarkable is that this conference was held three years ago and the debate is as heated as ever.

"The Right to Privacy vs. the Right to Know" by Edward Bloustein is a balanced essay about the First Amendment. Irving Louis Horowitz' article on "Librarians, Publishers and the New Information Environment" discusses many issues includ-

ing copyright and publishing in an environment that is essentially electronic. The private sector is represented by Paul Zurkowski's contribution that focuses on the AT&T divestiture and the distribution of *Medline*, among other problems. The last essay by Shirley Echelman, "The Right to Know: The Librarian's Responsibilities" rounds out what must have been a truly stimulating conference.

The words "right to information" bring to mind two discrete concepts: the right to publish and the right to access published information. For the first of these concepts, consider the obstacles an idea must go through before making its way into print. From the conception of the idea to its printed form, editorial judgments, market conditions, and distribution networks must be faced. Once these obstacles have been overcome, there are other hurdles, mostly external and sometimes invisible. Pressure and special interest groups certainly fall into these categories. Then there is the governmental presence that controls book and magazine rates that are admittedly still preferential. It is also the government that passes regulatory actions such as copyright legislation that can have a major impact on the printed word.

Once this outer veneer is stripped away, there is the more direct threat of the censor. In the narrow sense, censorship is the hiring of an official censor to read manuscripts and pass judgment on their suitability for publication. Fortunately, there is little of this type of censorship in the United States. However, in the broader sense of the definition, censorship is any action taken to remove a printed item from its potential audience. When arguments of libel, obscenity, and national security are factored into the equation, it is a wonder anything makes it to print at all.

The second broad concept that comes to mind when the phrase "right to information" is mentioned, deals with the "right to access published information." Indeed, in the last decade this has become one of the key information policy issues. This is where *The Right to Information* becomes a valuable addition to the literature. The "free or fee" debate over accessing online databases is one such issue. There is also

the question of cutbacks at the Government Printing Office that impacts on access to census data. The number of issues is growing.

The question of access is especially pronounced since the arrival of the Reagan administration in Washington in 1981. It appears that those people directing the "Second American Revolution" have their own ideas of what a national information policy should be. The zealous implementation of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-511) is at the heart of the de facto Reagan administration information policy. The act directed the OMB to develop federal information policies and standards and to reduce information collection, among other things. There is also the move to increase the amount of information that is classified (Executive Order 12356). Polemics aside, there are individuals, some librarians in particular, who do not share the Reagan administration's view on the access to information. The reduced access is especially true for government documents. Peter Hernon and Charles McClure are perhaps the most vocal among those harboring reservations about recent government changes. In their recent article in the *Drexel Library Quarterly* (75, no. 3 [Summer 1984]), "Impact from U.S. Government Printing on Public Access to Information," they spell out what changes at GPO have meant to library users. The American Library Association's *ALA Washington Newsletter* also has been monitoring events in Washington vis-a-vis access to information. So far they have issued five reports that chronicle the events of the last few years. The first four of these chronologies have been published as a book, *Less Access to Less Information by and about the U.S. Government, a 1981-1984 Chronology: April, 1981-December 1984*.

*The Right to Information* enhances the reader's appreciation of issues regarding access to information, especially from a historical perspective. It is brief, cogent and easy to read. The discussions at the end of the four chapters adequately embellish the speakers' comments. Although some of the specific issues brought up at the conference may have been resolved since 1982, the broader questions have

not. Reading this book was in many ways the next best thing to attending the conference.—Tom Smith, *Paul Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, The George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, D.C.*

**Middleton, Bernard C.** *The Restoration of Leather Bindings*. rev. ed. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1984. 266p. \$25. LC 83-15371. ISBN 0-8389-0391-6.

**Ritzenthaler, Mary Lynn.** *Archives and Manuscripts, Conservation: A Manual on Physical Care and Management*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1983. 144p. \$10 LC 83-50878. ISBN 0-931828-58-9.

The premise of *The Restoration of Leather Bindings* (first edition, 1972) is that restoration of old and worn bookbindings is more than a technical skill: rather, it is a specialized craft that calls for an understanding of historical methods, specific technical terms, and aesthetic styles in order to be developed fully. The second edition is a commendable follow-up to the first, continuing from this premise.

Additions to the book are intended primarily to update the binder's technical terminology and resource listings, with the only new section being a detailed description of the rebinding of antiquarian books. *The Restoration of Leather Bindings* is thus an extensive instruction manual and reference guide for those who practice or wish to practice leather bookbinding restoration.

In the section concerned with terminology, bookbinding styles, tools, techniques, and materials are defined and explained in such a way as to provide historical and procedural background to their usage. The new edition differs from the first in that stylistic adjustments and typographic corrections have been made as well as a few new subjects added.

The section on tools, equipment and materials follows that on terms by providing advice on supplies and their usage. For example, "Gold," in the section on terms is described in its three forms used in bookbinding; in the workshop section, gold leaf is recommended as a necessary supply item in contrast to foil. The 1984 edition contains a part devoted to "recent