

support, while sharing many of the experiences at Stanford.

Joan Segal provides a very informative chapter on networking and networks. The specific considerations of networks vary, and Segal discusses the variety of definitions, methods of cooperation and operation, levels of networking, program development, marketing and user services, and finally, the financing of networks. This is a very good and clear explanation of how most networks function and what their capabilities are within certain governance parameters.

Nina Cohen offers an explanation of what external contracting for library services consists of and means in different environments. How viable this practice is for academic libraries or how common I am not sure, however, it is an alternative. Theodore Welch shares information about how to attract donor dollars and external contributions. Again, what may be successful at one institution may not work at another, and practices vary widely. Strategies should contain common practices in

the fund-raising world and will reflect working with other development personnel on campus.

The entire volume reflects many different ideas, and unfortunately a common thread is missing. Each article contains useful information, descriptive and prescriptive, for making planning more effective in the context of academic libraries. How much influence this volume will have collectively is uncertain, but individual articles are distinguished and merit reading and discussion. The conference must have generated ample discussion, and it is too bad that the book does not include those sentiments and viewpoints. The bibliography is not, by any means, comprehensive nor complete but does include a few basic and common entries in each subject area. It is difficult to make a book of such readings more important, but this one will be useful, because the individual articles are very worthwhile and credible.—*Julia Gelfand, University Library, University of California, Irvine.*

## ABSTRACTS

*The following abstracts are based on those prepared by the ERIC Clearinghouse of Information Resources, School of Education, Syracuse University.*

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*Further information on ordering documents and on current postage charges may be obtained from a recent issue of Resources in Education.*

***Videodisc and Optical Disk Technologies and Their Applications in Libraries.*** A Report to the Council on Library Resources. Information Systems Consultants, Washington, D.C., 1985. 200p. ED 257 433 MF—\$0.83; PC—\$12.32.

This report examines the potential impact of optical media—videodiscs, compact audio discs, and optical discs, tapes, and cards—in

library-related applications. A detailed consideration of the technology includes discussion of the underlying principles, the various forms in which the technology is marketed, production methods and costs, and the capabilities of each different medium. An introductory chapter outlines the different forms of optical media and their potential applications in libraries. Each of the remaining eleven chapters then addresses the details of one of the following technologies: videodiscs; interactive videodiscs; recording digital data on videodisc; videodisc production; compact audio discs and CD ROM (compact disc read-only memory); videodiscs and CD ROM as digital publishing media; optical digital discs; optical digital products; and erasable optical media. A number of video and compact audio disc projects currently being developed or investigated in library settings are examined in the appropriate chapters, including audio and video applications at Video Pat-search, the National Library of Medicine, and the Library of Congress; digital data publishing projects at MiniMARC, Information Access Corporation, Carrolton Press, the Library Corporation, and other companies; and library applications of optical digital disk technology at



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the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, the National Air and Space Museum, the Public Archives of Canada, and Disclosure Information Group. An appendix explains the process of converting text, graphics, and audio to digital form.

**Reauthorization of the Library Services and Construction Act, 1984.** Hearing before the Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, United States Senate, Ninety-Eighth Congress, Second Session, on Proposed Legislation Authorizing Funds for Programs of the Library Services and Construction Act. Washington, D.C., 1984. 126p. ED 257 457 MF—\$0.83; PC—\$9.32.

This document records testimony before the

U.S. Senate on the reauthorization of Public Law 84-597, the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). The original purpose of the LSCA was to bring library services to rural areas and to those citizens who had previously been deprived of access (the handicapped, disadvantaged, and those who speak English as a second language); library services are currently available to 96 percent of Americans and the number of libraries nationwide has grown to 100,000. The focus of the LSCA in the 1980s is statewide sharing of existing resources; keeping pace with the information-technology revolution; and preserving the history that libraries have been asked to keep. The prepared statements that constitute the major portion of the document were presented by experienced practitioners, state librarians, urban library directors, and interested people who have devoted countless hours of volunteer time to maximizing the potential of libraries throughout the nation.

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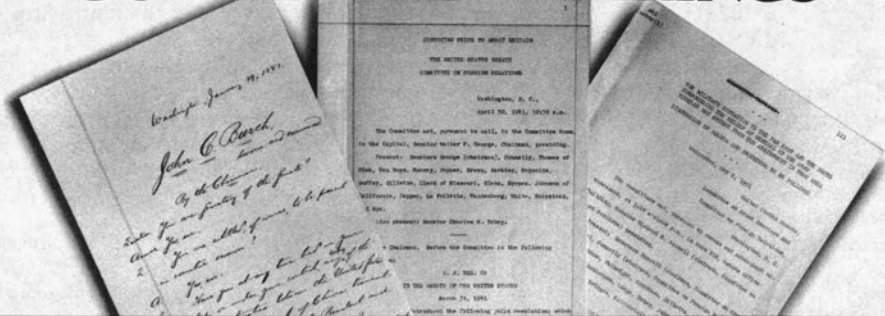




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