



# Recent Publications

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Leighton, Phillip D., and David C. Weber.** *Planning Academic and Research Library Buildings*. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1986. 2d ed. 630p. \$60 (ISBN 0-8389-3320-3). LC 85-11207.

Anyone who has undertaken the planning of an academic research library during the past twenty years would probably not have considered the task without a copy of Keyes Metcalf's *Planning Academic and Research Library Buildings* at hand. The widely accepted reputation and authority of this work in the field of library planning made Leighton and Weber's challenge in undertaking the writing of a second edition formidable. Leighton and Weber have organized this edition around the broad outlines of the planning process. Material on specific planning topics, to which Metcalf devoted the first two-thirds of his work, is folded into the planning process, with individual topics appearing whenever they are relevant to a particular planning stage. For the reader who is new to library planning, the broad range of specific planning topics that pop up at almost every step in the process may seem confusing and somewhat frustrating. On the other hand, it is this willingness to let the unavoidable complexity of library planning be visible that is one of the authors' most significant contributions.

Those familiar with Metcalf will probably still miss the convenience of the topical discussions about book stacks, traffic patterns, reader accommodations, etc. The appendixes still offer a wealth of specific information organized topically. In addition, the thorough indexing greatly reduces the possibility of missing important pieces of topical information that appear

in the broader planning discussions. This edition also includes a wealth of useful and informative illustrations.

Planning an academic research library is intrinsically a complex and tangled matter. Leighton and Weber have done a commendable job of discussing the planning process from start to finish, allowing the complexity to show while bringing an impressive degree of order and clarity to their presentation. Anyone setting out on a first effort at planning the new construction or the renovation of an academic library building will be well served by this book. Those of us who have spent a few years engaged in library planning and are confident that we "know Metcalf" also owe it to ourselves to give this book a thorough reading.

The book will quickly establish its place in the working collections of library planners. Though this project may have begun as an effort to update Metcalf, what has resulted is not only a *major* revision but also a significant addition to the literature of academic library planning. The degree to which this work advances the literature of library planning is understated by calling it a second edition. It is fully capable of standing on its own merits and should, in time, be known with equal respect as "Leighton and Weber."—Donald G. Kelsey, *University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis*.

**Research Libraries: The Past 25 Years, the Next 25 Years. Papers for a Festschrift Honoring L. A. Anderson.** Ed. by Taylor E. Hubbard. Boulder, Colo.: Colorado Associated Univ. Pr., 1986. \$25 (ISBN 0-87081-163-0). LC 86-2327.