

Academic Librarianship Past, Present, and Future: A Festschrift in Honor of David Kaser. Ed. by John Richardson, Jr., and Jinnie Y. Davis. Englewood, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1989. 176p. \$32.50 U.S.; \$39 elsewhere (ISBN 0-87287-669-1). LC 89-12143.

This volume of nine essays is a well-executed tribute to David Kaser, Distinguished Professor at Indiana University's School of Library and Information Science, in honor of his sixty-fifth birthday and in celebration of "a life of distinction in scholarship, education, and humanity."

This series of thoughtful and thought-provoking essays by distinguished colleagues and former students, includes such luminaries as Warren J. Haas, Frederick G. Kilgour, and James Mullins. The aim is to present various viewpoints on the past, present, and future of academic librarianship and draw our attention to themes that have been central to the career and contributions of Dr. Kaser. These include the challenges faced in library education, library building and space planning, professional history, modern management principles, and library technology.

Warren Haas, president of the Council on Library Resources, presents a historical review of CLR activities in the form of a personal reflection that focuses on the Council's emphasis on specialized training, professional education, and research librarianship. Haas wisely points out that, "while CLR history is not, per se, the history of libraries, it is one source for such a history." Although the essay announces its historical perspective, it is included in Part I, "The Future of Academic Librarianship," because of its speculation on "how to proceed," given the recognition of certain primary shortcomings in the profession, particularly with regard to professional education. "Recognizing that CLR can at best only stimulate other organizations and individuals . . . the Council is concentrating on three questions that may help point the way to future constructive action": how information studies can become accepted as "a discrete and significant academic discipline"; whether "the

content, methods, and relative balance" of components within professional education need to be revised or adjusted; and "how can our present leaders in libraries and professional schools enlist the assistance from other disciplines" in support of our goals?

Philip D. Leighton and David C. Weber of Stanford University have contributed a particularly timely essay on "The Influence of Computer Technology on Academic Library Building," with a valuable projection regarding issues and concerns for the 1990s, particularly "improved space and environmental conditions for workstations," and "significant changes . . . in the configuration and operation of reading areas, the reference area [and] service points in general" as "traditional functions" are "supplemented by the computer." The notion of "smart buildings" with electronically advanced design is emerging and "may be a strong influence over library building planning." Clearly an article close to one of Dr. Kaser's areas of expertise, this piece should be required reading for students and administrators alike. It will be of value to anyone researching the topic of site preparation, or the impact of automated systems on the library environment.

The piece contributed by Frederick Kilgour, former president of OCLC and pioneer of information technology, proves beyond question that his pioneer spirit has not left him. Kilgour is currently devoting his attention to "the next stage of technological development: computerized book texts." His essay offers an overview of the Electronic Information Delivery Online System (EIDOS), "an interactive, online method for retrieving information for written books that are in digital form." One senses this will be an essay of lasting value.

Part II offers two papers on "The Present Situation of Academic Librarianship." William Crowe pays tribute to Verner Clapp for his role in fostering our present awareness of the need for preservation of library materials, and James Mullins provides an international context for a discussion on faculty status. Although we have been grappling with the issue of sta-

tus and recognition within the academic community for some twenty-five years in this country, and continue to wage individual battles on campuses across the nation, it appears our colleagues in the United Kingdom are at least a step behind us in establishing uniform standards. However, it is not difficult to predict that the growing implementation of automated systems, and attendant responsibilities that result, will force the issue of professional recognition to the surface of discussion in that country as well.

Two essays comprise Part III, "A Historical Examination of Academic Librarianship." Charles Hale offers a history of "The College Library Section, 1889-1923: Predecessor to the Association of College and Research Libraries," and Larry Hardesty and John Mark Tucker present a retrospective view of "library use instruction." The latter paper describes a cyclical pattern of popularity for instructional services over the past hundred years, and suggests hopefully that we "could be entering a 'golden period.'" "The popularity of library instruction has been influenced by "the surrounding environment of higher education," the energies of "far-sighted individuals, such as Justin Winsor," or negatively by lack of initiative and the "inability of individuals to capitalize"

on previous advances. Interestingly enough, both "the 1930s and 1970s, times of economic scarcity in higher education, were characterized by innovation and progress in user education." It seems that dedicated people have made and will continue to make the difference. The authors ask us to consider the education of users among the priorities that compete for the attention and energy of academic librarians.

The final section will be appreciated by those who have worked closely with David Kaser as students or colleagues, and by others who have been touched by his career. Margaret C. Fung offers an admiring appraisal of Dr. Kaser's efforts and accomplishments at the international level, particularly his influence on Sino-American librarianship, which extends over two decades. Joanne E. Passet concludes with a biographical sketch of "the senior library historian of his generation and one of the most prominent academic librarians of his time," whose "positive outlook on life has encouraged, motivated, and energized" countless individuals. These valuable pieces surround a well-deserved tribute to a truly remarkable individual.—Richard J. Kuhta, *St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York.*