

stantial grant subsidies. (A classic example, noted in passing by Becher, was the race to unlock the structure of DNA—the double helix.) The urban specialties are located mainly in the sciences. Rural specialties, on the other hand, are more relaxed, less competitive (but also less collaborative), and offer a sufficient number of research topics for every scholar to lay claim to his or her own area of expertise. Some specialties within the natural sciences are rural, as are presumably all areas of the humanities, social sciences, and the soft professions. Whether a specialty is urban or rural, of course, is reflected in the methods of communication used by the specialty to move around its constituent information.

It is only in the final chapter on "Implications for Theory and Practice" that Becher introduces his fourth major dichotomy, *convergent/divergent*. Convergent disciplinary communities are those with "a sense of collectivity and mutual identity," while divergent communities are "schismatic and ideologically fragmented." All of the energy which the reader has expended in grasping the arguments presented in the first 150 pages of the book is amply rewarded in this final, illuminating chapter, for it is here that Becher synthesizes his information, and artfully weaves together his four dichotomies to reveal some of the major social and conceptual distinctions among scholarly disciplines and communities.

Becher takes special care throughout his book never to oversimplify. He is continuously aware that he is describing individual perceptions and perspectives in general terms, and that variations and exceptions will necessarily occur in particular cases. He never presents his four dichotomies as absolutes but rather, in each instance, as the two end-points of a single continuum, along which different disciplines or disciplinary communities can be located. My only criticism of the study is that it tends to place perhaps too great an emphasis on the sciences. Becher covers all of the main sciences in his twelve representative disciplines, but

considers only a few disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. Some of his dichotomies, notably hard/soft, and especially urban/rural, tend to cluster the sciences on one side, and all other disciplines on the other. This limits somewhat the conclusions he is able to draw about the differences among the nonscientific disciplines. Still, one cannot fault this approach too heavily, given the unchallenged centrality and predominance of the sciences among academic disciplines today—and, in any case, it is difficult to say whether Becher's conclusions would in fact have been much different had he delved more deeply into the humanities and social sciences, and had he included such subjects as philosophy, religion, or political science among his sample disciplines.

Most of us in academic libraries have a true subject background in only one discipline; when we enter academic librarianship, we accept a few hackneyed distinctions (scientists use journals, humanists monographs), but then we tend, nevertheless, to generalize our own disciplinary experience, and to imagine that the same qualities characterizing the discipline with which we are most familiar are shared by all disciplines. A careful reading of *Academic Tribes and Territories* will serve as an effective antidote to that affliction, and will do much to broaden the academic librarian's appreciation of the starkly divergent aims and values which underlie the many academic disciplines the research library is called upon to support.—Ross W. Atkinson, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Technical Services Today and Tomorrow. Ed. by Michael Gorman. Englewood, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1990. 207p. (ISBN 0-87287-608-X). LC 90-34856.

Michael Gorman has brought together sixteen quality contributions "to examine the present state of each of the major areas of technical services in libraries, to provide individual views on the future of those areas and of technical services in general, and to furnish the reader with

further readings on the topic in question." In this he has succeeded. I am less convinced, however, of his success in providing "a modern version of the classic Maurice Tauber work," *Technical Services in Libraries* (New York, 1954), because the contributions differ so greatly in their focus. Some deal with core topics in technical services; others with interesting byways. Some are firmly based in current operations; others treat the broader issues. This variety does not lend itself to the goal of "presenting a comprehensive picture of the present and future" of technical services. The whole is less than the sum of its excellent parts. Perhaps Gorman set his sights too high.

Several chapters on core topics are among the best in the volume. I have seldom encountered such a concise and clear formulation of basic issues of bibliographic control as in the contributions on descriptive cataloging (Gorman), subject cataloging and classification (Lois Mai Chan and Theodora Hodges), and authority control (Arnold Wajenberg). I would make them required reading for all library school students. On the subject of technical services organization, Jennifer Younger and D. Kaye Gopen predict a paradigm shift as technical services becomes user oriented with emphasis upon effectiveness rather than upon efficiency. At the operational level, Leslie Bleil and Charlene Renner describe the relationships between copy cataloging and the bibliographic networks, while Karen Schmidt treats acquisitions. Marsha Stevenson and Paul Anderson expand their focus—automation of circulation services—to treat broader topics, such as training for automation and the health hazards of VDTs.

Certain contributions cover general issues, albeit with a technical services focus. Norman Brown gives a solid summation of preservation in the research library, a gem worth reading by all academic librarians. William Potter examines the evolving online catalog with its implications both for technical and public services. Susan Rhee deals with

budgeting in general before turning to technical services in particular.

The remaining chapters deal with byways in technical services. Among the best is the discussion of gifts and exchanges by Joseph Barker. Edward Lockman treats library book gathering plans (approval plans and blanket orders) with a novel proposal for a national independent reviewing center. Jennifer Cargill has an operationally oriented chapter on accounting practice for the acquisitions budget, while Betsy Kruger deals with serial acquisitions, including the journal pricing crisis. Finally, Robert Burger describes the special needs of Slavic technical services.

I recommend this book for most academic libraries. The contributions are crisply written and pack a lot of information and insight into 200 pages. Even with the diverse contributors, I found relatively little overlap. Each chapter includes footnotes or suggestions for further readings. The technical services librarian should find it profitable to read the book from cover to cover. Other librarians should pick and choose; I would suggest the more general and theoretical chapters to them. Without guidance, the library science student, however, might come away with a wrong impression of the relative importance of various technical services areas because the number of pages is not consistent with the importance of the topic. Michael Gorman has edited an excellent compilation. He has not, however, provided the definitive text on technical services for the 1990s.—Robert P. Holley, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.

White, Herbert S. *Librarians and the Awakening from Innocence: A Collection of Papers*. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1989. 382p. \$38.50 (ISBN 0-8161-1892-2). LC 88-32652.

Herbert S. White is professor and former dean, School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University. He is also a perceptive and articulate commentator on the library profession. This volume includes thirty-seven articles written by him and published be-