

Over half the book is devoted to providing examples of real online catalogs. Contributions were sought from all possible systems; guidelines were provided for the content and format of the submissions. The thirty-two responses received cover systems from integrated library system vendors such as DRA, Innovative Interfaces, and Dynix; locally developed systems such as those at University of California, Dartmouth, and University of Texas; and smaller CD-ROM-based systems such as Marcive, Follett Software, and Winnebago. Libraries whose catalogs are featured include academic, public, school, and special. Each contribution is twelve to fourteen pages in length, usually containing three to five pages of text, and twenty to thirty screens. The focus is on the user interface in conducting several sample searches or alternatives prescribed by Crawford.

There is real value in being able to view and understand how users of all these different catalogs interact with the catalog. The range of catalogs represented exceeds what would be possible by sampling catalogs available on the Internet. The collection, in conjunction with the essays, makes it easy to compare and contrast approaches to catalog design. The text adds to the understanding of how, and sometimes why, the catalog works. Every library will have to give thought in the future to a new online catalog, whether it be its first, a replacement for or a rethinking of an existing one, or an enhanced catalog with a broader scope. The *Online Catalog Book* makes it possible to sample broadly the efforts of many libraries and vendors and to put into context the wide-ranging design questions that must be addressed.—Flo Wilson, *Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.*

*Russian Libraries in Transition: An Anthology of Glasnost Literature.* Ed. by Dennis Kimmage. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1992. 214p. \$32.50 (ISBN 0-89950-718-2).

For decades, the Soviet library world was under the ironclad control of the Communist Party. Through a highly cen-

tralized network extending to the local library, the Party exercised complete control over collection policies, processing, and reader services. Even books published under a previous Soviet regime were often ordered removed from the shelves because a later ruler's method and ideological stance were different from his predecessor's. The well-known example of the mandatory excision of the article on Lavrenti Beria and its replacement by one on the Bering Sea in the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia* epitomizes the type of complete control the party exercised over libraries and librarians.

Ironically, although the library was abstractly regarded as an important part of Communist propaganda and ideology, librarians and library facilities were not. Library buildings were not well maintained, inadequate space and working conditions were a common complaint, library education was heavy on ideology and light on other content, and librarians were poorly paid and poorly treated.

With the advent of Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost*, or openness, previously muted voices in the library world have been raised against the corrosive effects of party control over libraries and librarians. As more people have spoken and written without repression about the terrible conditions, inadequate support, and mindless censorship and as more deficiencies in library policies and facilities have been uncovered, dissident opinions have begun to be published in mainstream library periodicals and non-Party library associations have been formed.

It is the excitement of this period of change that Dennis Kimmage has captured so well in this anthology of library *glasnost* literature. As he writes, "The selections in this anthology reflect an important part of a spiritual rebirth that we can all share, that presents not only librarians but Americans from all walks of life with an extraordinary opportunity for meaningful interaction and cross-cultural influence."

The anthology consists of Soviet newspaper and journal articles arranged in three parts. Each is preceded by a brief essay, written by Kimmage, that serves

to place the subsequent material in context. Part 1, "Glasnost Exposes the Problem: A System in Decline," concerns the fire at the Library of the Academy of Sciences in February 1988, as well as related problems of preservation and collection maintenance. Part 2, "Information Politics, *Partiinost*, and the *Spetskhran*," includes impassioned articles about the "cult of secrecy," obfuscation of the truth, and several articles on the special collections that hid "dangerous" books from the public's eyes. Several articles discuss the role of ideology in information politics. Part 3, "Soviet Libraries and Democracy: Directions for the Future," focuses on initiatives and actions by librarians outside the traditional bounds of party control, including formation of library associations, participatory management in libraries, and library education.

The selections are all well translated and read smoothly. The choice of articles is sound and the authors are well-known leaders in the Moscow and St. Petersburg library worlds, as well as an established Russian literary scholar and a literary journalist. The book leaves the reader with a feeling of exhilaration and near despair. The exhilaration comes from the tremendous energies and spirit that have been unleashed among librarians in Russia; the despair results from knowledge of the tremendous obstacles that have yet to be overcome.—Robert H. Burger, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*.

#### SHORT NOTICES

**E. J. Josey: *An Activist Librarian*.** Ed. Ismail Abdullahi. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1992, 268p. \$32.50. alk. paper (ISBN 0-8108-2584-8).

This is a *Festschrift* for one of the outstanding African American librarians of our time, E. J. Josey. It consists of twenty-two short essays, a poem, and a comprehensive bibliography of his writings. The contributors make good use of the occasion to describe their own experiences working with him, and, thereby, to recount a large portion of the history of the civil rights and antiracist struggles within the American library

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