Book Reviews

Academic Libraries: Their Rationale and Role in American Higher Education. Eds. Gerard B. McCabe and Ruth J. Person. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Pr., 1995. 230p. $55 (ISBN 0-313-28597-7). A more accurate subtitle for this book might have been "The Effect of Automation on the Rationale and Role of American Libraries." Intended primarily for administrators in higher education but also for librarians, a dozen essays describe the present state of the academic library in the United States and the manner in which its traditional operations—selection, acquisition, organization, dissemination—and its position within higher education have been altered by the rush of automation.

The major units in the present-day library would be unrecognizable to anyone who retired even five years ago: cataloging now increasingly exports its tasks to outside contractors, selectors are as much concerned with access to invisible materials as with the purchase of print books and journals, nonlibrarians such as programmers and fundraisers have been added to the staff, and in an attempt to provide a rational support structure for academic functions, administrators are increasingly linking the library to computing and telecommunications centers as we move from the "storehouse" to the "gateway" model of providing information. Meanwhile, librarians struggle with the "bimodal" library, pressured by faculty who continue to demand print materials and by library administrators who see the future of librarianship as inexorably linked to automation and the development of access modes to information.

The authors address the issues assigned to them with assurance and conviction as they review where we have been and where we are going: the spe-cial needs of the community college (although why not an essay on the special needs of the college as opposed to university library?), the basic as well as continuing education needs of the staff, organizational and personnel issues, and the position of the academic library in the educational enterprise.

They make clear that as libraries' mode of operations changes, so will the way librarians work. Jordan Scepanski states baldly, ". . . the library will serve as a warehouse of book and journal collections that for one reason or another have not been digitized and are not available in electronic form" and may become a book museum or a study hall. He believes (hopes?) that in the future, librarians will have Ph.D.s and will be fully integrated into the faculty as teachers and researchers. (Will we finally have RESPECT? As one of my philosophy teachers used to say, "Maybe yes, maybe no.") Charles Newman asserts that "the position of academic library director as we know it today is quickly becoming extinct," a fact borne out by the number of library deans and directors who have recently been appointed as heads of information units overseeing computing centers, telecommunications, and even the university press, in addition to the library.

Not much in this group of essays is new to the working academic librarian, though it is useful (and jolting) to be confronted with one's image in the mirror. Much, if not most, of it will be new to administrators in higher education who, as Chapin and Hardesty point out, usually concern themselves with libraries primarily as a budget issue (a black hole, in their view) rather than with their inner workings or their role within the institution. Because they are so busy, how-

ever, I suspect that administrators will not take the time to read the entire book. Most useful to them will be Joanne Euster's essay, which describes the reorientation of the library from the storehouse to the gateway model, Carla Stoffle and Kathleen Weibel's essay which describes possible avenues for funding and emphasizes the need to incorporate technology into the budget rather than depend on donor support for automation; and Paul M. Gherman's and Robert C. Heterick's concluding essay, which probes the increasingly intimate relationship between the library and the campus computing service

The book concludes with a summary review of the literature concerning the current issues in academic librarianship and a very good annotated bibliography that mirrors the chapter headings.—*Eva M. Sartori, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.*

International Book Publishing: An Encyclopedia. Eds. Philip G. Altbach and Edith S. Hoshino. New York: Garland, 1995. 736p. $95, alk. paper (ISBN 0-8153-0786-1).

This ambitious volume calls upon a cadre of international specialists, ranging from scholars to practitioners, to inform the reader about the past and future status of book publishing. Recognizing the dearth of research and analysis devoted to book publishing as both a commercial and cultural endeavor, editors Philip G. Altbach and Edith S. Hoshino have constructed a balanced and timely state-of-the-art review that is useful in not only library reference collections but also the offices of acquisitions librarians, collection development managers, area studies specialists, editors, publishers, booksellers, and savvy suppliers. Equally important, the encyclopedia may also serve as a course of study for students of publishing, the book trade, librarianship, area studies, and comparative education. Virtually all the essays are well documented, and frequently accompanied by

bibliographies for further research, and the excellent index facilitates access to complex subjects. Even the appendix is a valuable research tool—a major compilation of book production statistics by region and country from the *Unesco Statistical Yearbook, 1970 to 1990.*

In his introductory essay, "Research on Publishing: Literature and Analysis," Philip Altbach, professor of higher education at the School of Education, Boston College, and director of the Research and Information Center of the Bellagio Publishing Network, sets the philosophical and scholarly context for the encyclopedia, discussing why book publishing has received so little analytic attention and recommending ways "to expand the network of research and analysis concerning publishing and book development." This well-tempered advocacy piece lends coherence and strength to the main body of the encyclopedia, which is organized into two parts.

The first part, "Topics in Publishing," consists of thirty-four essays on types of publishing (e.g., college textbook, electronic, reference, university press); sociopolitical aspects of publishing (e.g., copyright, freedom of the press, publishing in the Third World); and the economics of publishing (e.g., book marketing, bookselling, international book production statistics). There is a refreshing array of "voices" among these essays, ranging from the personal conviction of Bill Henderson, founder and publisher of Pushcart Press, in "The Small Press Today and Yesterday," to the factual eloquence of William S. Lofquist, commodity/industry specialist with the U.S. Department of Commerce, in "A Statistical Perspective on U.S. Book Publishing," to the theoretical insights of Shigeo Minowa, dean of the School of International Business and Management of Kanazawa University, Japan, in "The Societal Context of Book Publishing." The range of individual perspectives proffered on the future of publishing—