to continue the work is certainly appropriate and a better solution than the annual supplementary volumes of the first edition, but basing the ongoing project on these four physical volumes demonstrates a clear lack of editorial focus or control. When Allen Kent defended the first edition against its reviewers, he failed to address their criticisms in any meaningful way, preferring instead to defend the idea rather than the reality of what was actually produced and thus failed to adequately refute the criticisms of the first edition.[2] The wholesale reprinting of earlier entries in the new edition, the lack of a conceptual framework on which to base inclusion of articles, and the general unfocused approach to the field still are major issues that have not been faced by the editors and lead to the suspicion that the projected supplemental material will be a series of random articles rather than an encyclopedia.

Other problems were noted by the reviewers of the earlier edition and its supplements that recur here. One major criticism of the first edition was the almost gratuitous inclusion of illustrations that add nothing to the information but greatly increase the bulk (and presumably the cost) of the set. This tradition is continued here, with the odd assortment of reproductions of title pages in the article titled "Center for Research Libraries" (why the cover from the *Locomotive Engineers Journal* for July 1922?) and the full page devoted to the cover of the *Croatian Library Association Journal* or the reproduction of the Certificate of Recognition awarded to the Jamaica Library Association by the International Association of School Librarians for hosting a conference in 1996.

A reviewer also can cavil about the binding, which probably will not last more than a few years in a general reference collection and the lack of a letter guide on the spines that should be required of any alphabetically arranged multivolume reference work. But the issue is that although the new edition of the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* is more than a *The Best of the First Edition of ELIS*, the enhancements do not justify the cost, particularly because any collection interested in acquiring such a work would already have the first edition and its supplements.

This is a shame. There are articles here that individually represent worthwhile, and in some areas, major contributions to the literature of library and information science. They are, it is true, more descriptive than research based and probably not publishable in the journal literature, but they do provide information of value to students and others that would be difficult to find elsewhere. It is lamentable that these articles do not add up to an encyclopedia.—*Lee Shiflett, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.*

1. Louise Rosenberg and Gay Detlefsen, "Is ELIS Worthy of the Name? —'No!'" *Wilson Library Bulletin* 47 (Mar. 1973: 598–601.
2. Allen Kent, "The Editor Replies: Is ELIS Worthy of the Name?—'Yes!'" *Wilson Library Bulletin* 47 (Mar. 1973): 602–4.

**Patricia Okker.** *Social Stories: The Magazine Novel in Nineteenth-century America*. Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Pr., 2003. 202p. alk. paper, $37.50 (ISBN 0813922402). LC 2003-6547.

Professor Okker has given us a small book on a big topic: serial fiction in nineteenth-century America. Even so, simply by raising it, she reminds us that this is a major and underinvestigated area in the history of the book in North America. At the beginning of the new republic, there were about twelve magazines competing for readers; by the end of the nineteenth century, there were more than 3,000—and

growing. Central to the evolution and success of magazines, Okker argues, was their increasing openness to serial fiction as a way of growing and maintaining audiences. The enormous success of Dickens's serial fiction on both sides of the Atlantic in the 1840s created a golden age of magazine fiction that lasted until the very end of the century, when economics and immigration changed the editorial practices at major magazines. As a business plan, serial fiction was deceptively simple: capture the audience's attention and hold it as long as possible. It was only when selling advertising became more lucrative—and easier—than recruiting and retaining stables of house authors that the business model shifted, and serialized fiction went into permanent decline. In between, there were many stories to be told and Okker offers us a sampling.

The title of her book alludes to her argument: serialized fiction was peculiarly "social" in that it created and spoke to communities of readers. But doesn't all fiction, all literature, do that to one extent or another? What Okker has in mind here, however, is the observation that with serialized fiction you get communities of people reading the same thing at the same time. Or at least, such is the argument. The problem is that it is not an argument at all but, rather, an assumption; and on this assumption the edifice of the book is built. Indeed, the generic problem with studies such as Okker's is that there really is no good body of evidence to which a scholar can turn that would document the existence of "communities of readers."

Who were they? Where were they? And, most important of all, what difference does their existence or nonexistence make anyway?

Thus, Okker does what so many others in her situation have done: she argues inferentially from the text to the reader, a practice that scholars such as Roger Chartier have been trying to wean us from for many years now. Undeterred, Okker narrows a very large field of possible examples to a mere handful of case studies, beginning with Jeremy Belknap's *The Foresters* in the late eighteenth century and concluding with William Dean Howell's *A Modern Instance*, at the end of the nineteenth century. Along the way, she considers fiction by Ann Stephens, William Simms, Martin R. Delany, and the prolific Rebecca Harding Davis, surely the queen of the magazine novel.

With each of her writers, Okker stalks a similar topos, tying texts to social, political, and cultural contexts: the ratification of the Constitution; gender and fashion; sectionalism and slavery; and the marketplace and the fate of literature. In general, her readings seem balanced and grounded, and she almost succeeds in making minor talents such as Belknap actually interesting. That magazine fiction in the nineteenth century connected with the ebb and flow of events of the day, hot-button issues, and smoldering anxieties seems clear from Okker's patient reading of her sources. But it is one thing to relate texts to contexts; it is quite another to explain how they were received and why. Okker's book is valuable not for what it wants to say about "reading communities" but, rather, for what it has to say about relationships among writers, editors, and magazine publishers in the long nineteenth century. As a contribution to the history of the book, *Social Stories* is worth a read if only for its ability to throw light on an understudied, but

important, niche in nineteenth-century publishing.—*Michael Ryan, University of Pennsylvania.*

*The Strategic Stewardship of Cultural Resources: To Preserve and Protect*. Ed. Andrea T. Merrill. New York: Haworth, 2003. 237p. alk. paper, cloth $59.95 (ISBN 0789020904); paper $39.95 (ISBN 0789020912). LC 2002-155851.

A collection of twenty-two papers presented at a symposium on the preservation and stewardship of cultural heritage resources hosted by the Library of Congress in October of 2000 appears as essays in *The Strategic Stewardship of Cultural Resources*. Editor Andrea T. Merrill of the Office of Security at the Library of Congress selected and arranged the essays in the following general groupings:

• Challenges and risks associated with cultural stewardship;

• Evaluation and strategies for security and preservation programs;

• Aftermath of theft, disaster, vandalism, deterioration, and bad press;

• Funding strategies for preservation and security;

• Security and preservation risks and challenges in the digital environment;

• Innovations in preservation and security: buildings, people, and collections.

Given the importance of these topics and their valuable insights, this volume, copublished simultaneously as the *Journal of Library Administration* (vol. 38, nos. 1–2/3–4, 2003), is recommended reading for anyone who works in archives, libraries, museums, corporations, churches, and historical societies, large and small, and who shares the challenges addressed in its pages. In short, anyone who is in the business of safeguarding special collections will benefit from these detailed discussions on an unpopular and frequently overlooked aspect of preservation, that of security. As James Billington

stated so beautifully in the preface, "we all share a common responsibility to preserve the breadth and depth of the human record."

Although not appropriate as a textbook because its focus is limited to certain aspects of archival management, any syllabus for a course in archives and records, or preservation and conservation, should find this volume under "Recommended" or "Required Readings." At the very least, many of these essays should be welcomed into the canon of preservation literature.

If preservation and protection didn't go hand in hand, this book could easily have been titled *Strategic Models and Measures for the Security of Cultural Resources*. What seemed to be a shotgun wedding at first, the link between the two became clearer the more I read. We learn that a secure environment deals not only with safety, but also with carefully controlled environmental conditions, including the development of a solid knowledge of the structures that house our collections (familiarity with architectural details—blueprints or photographs); identification of unmarked keys; designation of responsible persons for various emergency response details; training of all staff in the ability to detect possible suspicious patrons; as well as in the detection of the tell-tale signs of deterioration such as mold, acidification, vinegar smells, insect activity, or rodent droppings. It is emphasized repeatedly that every library employee needs to understand that he or she has a role to play in safeguarding materials.

Andrea Merrill has worked for years in the Office of Security at the Library of Congress, for which she prepares a variety of articles and reports related to the library's security program. Moreover, she has edited several major exhibitions at various Smithsonian museums. However, Merrill's editorial skills notwithstanding, nowhere in the book do we hear her voice,