supremacy in the then known world. The three main factors that led to this accumulation of books included the opening up of relations between the Greek world and the East, the passionate love of books displayed by the Ptolemaic kings, and the rise to prominence of the new discipline of textual studies in literature. The founding of great libraries and the growth of textual studies were not limited to the Greeks but were also the characteristic feature of other kingdoms ruled by Alexander the Great's successors as well as other intellectual centers that managed to remain administratively independent of the ambitious Macedonian kings. Of the latter, the library at Pergamum in Asia Minor, founded by the Attalids, tried for a long time to create a library rivaling the Alexandrian Library. Also, the archives at Ai Khanoum in Bactira in the northeast of Afghanistan, one of the kingdoms through which the Silk Road ran, was a Greek cultural center located in one of the most remote spots on the globe.

Chapter V, Architecture, focuses on the architecture, interior layout, furniture, and fittings of libraries and archives toward the end of the second century BC. Drawing together the conclusions of architectural historians and evidence from excavations, Staikos has painted a picture of a typical library during this period. The library would have a main hall designed to house only a token quantity, not the main collection. These books would not necessarily have been the most used or useful, the concept of the reference library being a more modern concept. Around the main hall would be auxiliary buildings where the majority of the books were kept. As the process of collecting books continued over a long period and followed no pre-ordained plan, it is reasonable to assume that the bulk of the collection was housed in outbuildings that grew up like the "cells of a beehive, with big and small rooms connected to each other by roofed stoas and hidden corridors."

From Minos to Cleopatra is a handsome volume, which is printed on glossy paper and bound in maroon buckram-covered boards with title and publication data embossed in gold on the front cover and spine. An illustration of an imaginary reconstruction of the Museum in Alexandria from the title page of M. Meibonius's *Diogenes Laertius* (published in Amsterdam in 1698) is affixed to the cover and bordered with a gold-embossed frame. A dust jacket with illustrations from the Late Minoan period (1600–1550 BC) and from the time of Cleopatra VII (51 BC[?]) adds both protection and further detail. Lavishly reproduced illustrations in black, white, and sepia, as well as full color, bring the well-written (and skillfully translated from the original Greek) text to life.

Each chapter is documented copiously with endnotes that further illumine the text. An extensive twenty-three-page bibliography leads the reader to primary and secondary sources on the history of libraries in the ancient world, and a nineteen-page index provides detailed access to this volume. It was surprising that Lionel Casson's *Libraries in the Ancient World* (Yale 2001) was not in the bibliography. Although Casson's and Staikos's works cover some of the same territory, Casson's, with illustrations limited to black and white, sells at a third of the price of Staikos's. Academic and research libraries and serious collectors of library history will certainly want both for their different approaches and for their discussions of material that does not overlap.—*Plummer Alston Jones Jr., East Carolina University.*

Warner, Julian. *Humanizing Information Technology*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2004. 156p. alk. paper, $35 (ISBN: 0810849569). LC 2003-17048.

As librarians, we need to be aware that information and information technologies are ever-growing organisms spreading both into and out from the traditional roles we have defined for them. As more of our resources become digitally based, librarians need to be not only cognizant of, but also involved in, discussions going on between other sectors of the information science community. These professionals—information scientists, information architects, instructional technologists, and human factors experts, to name a few—have a tremendous wealth of expertise and insight to offer and, conversely, can benefit from the expertise of the library sector.

Julian Warner's new book, *Humanizing Information Technology*, gives insight into an ongoing discussion among information scientists. The discussion, which is of long standing, focuses on two topics: information as an autonomous variable, and the primacy of theoretical knowledge. Warner, a faculty member in the School of Management and Economics at Queen's University of Belfast, has written a series of eight essays that develop this contrasting view. Among the essays are "An Information View of History," in which Warner argues that the information society should begin to study the history and the historical importance of information technology. By conducting this study the members of the information society can benefit themselves as well as others who are interested in the roles played by information and information technologies in human societies.

In "Organs of the Human Brain, Created by the Human Hand: Toward an Understanding of Information Technology," Warner applies concepts from Karl Marx and economic theory combined with an understanding of information science to draw a distinction between the invention and the diffusion of information technology. With this distinction in place, Warner uses primary source information to suggest that in the late nineteenth century, the United States was ideally positioned for the development and dissemination of information technologies.

In "Information Society or Cash Nexus? A Study of the United States as a Copyright Haven," Warner uses the late nineteenth century as a backdrop to examine the economic ramifications of copyright. He argues that governments that disregard foreign copyright claims are actually putting themselves at an economic disadvantage. He examines government enforcement of copyright and how the history of this enforcement can help information scientists develop an appreciation of the history of information technology and to shape future developments in this field.

Currently, the primary focus of information retrieval systems is on providing users with the most relevant records. In "In the Catalogue Ye Go for Men: Evaluation Criteria for Information Retrieval Systems," Warner calls for a shift in focus. Pointing to changing user demands and systems developments outside the normal arena, he explains the need for information retrieval systems that allow for exploration, discovery, and cognitive control.

Warner makes some thought-provoking points and covers topics—information retrieval, copyright, and the distinction between meta-objects and meta-language—that many librarians will find valuable. Unfortunately, *Humanizing Information Technology* is at times dense and difficult to grasp, which greatly diminishes the overall value of the work.—*Tim Daniels, Georgia State University.*