BOOK REVIEWS

Die Elektronische Datenverarbeitung im Bibliothekswesen. By Paul Niewalda. Muenchen-Pullach, Berlin, Verlag Dokumentation, 1971. (Bibliothekspraxis, 1)

As the first volume in a new series called *Bibliothekspraxis* (Library Practice), *Verlag Dokumentation* has published a short monograph on library automation by Paul Niewalda, of the University Library of Regensburg. Niewalda has written an introductory text, in German, condensing the standard, largely American, literature on the subject. His treatment is concise, well-written, and well-organized. Computer capabilities, and existing library applications in the United States and elsewhere, are carefully delineated. The text is thoroughly documented, with a large number of notes and a useful bibliography included.

The book addresses itself to the German reader and, in fact, much is already familiar to American librarians. Yet Niewalda's frequent references to the European, particularly the German, library automation scene enhance the book's value. The author is clearly well informed both about library automation in general, and about local practice and problems. He brings to his task common sense and sound judgment.

The work is recommended to those readers having a general interest in foreign developments in the field of library automation.

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Dictionary of Library Science, Information and Documentation in Six Languages. Compiled and arranged by W. E. Clason. Amsterdam: Elsevier Scientific Publ. Co., 1973.

The Basic Table, a numbered list of entries for 5,439 English language words and phrases, alphabetically arranged, forms the body of the *Dictionary of Library Science, Information and Documentation.* Each entry consists of a serial number, the English term (American and/or British), equivalents in French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, and German, and a code identifying the vocabulary with which the term is associated. Hence, there are separate entries for *volume* as a book trade or library term and as an information processing term. Many entries are augmented by brief definitions. English synonyms are also frequently given; in general these are terms from which references have been made. In such cases entry is under the synonym which files first. This practice produces some apparently eccentric choices; e.g., *pseudonym,* see *allonym; UDC,* see *Brussels system.*

Following the Basic Table are indexes for the five non-English languages. Numerical references are given to Basic Table entries in which the index term is cited. German *Band* is found not only in the first *volume* entry mentioned above but also in the bookbinding and information processing entries for *tape.*

Criteria employed for the selection of entries are unexplained. IBM's *Data Processing Glossary* and the *American National Standard Vocabulary for Information Processing* appear to have been important sources of information processing terms. The glossary in *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules* was evidently not used. It is clear that some of the source lists used were in other languages.

The juxtaposition of related vocabularies which often put the same words to different uses presents difficulties which the approach taken here seems capable of handling. Nevertheless the work as executed has flaws which reduce its effectiveness. The notions of synonymy and nonsynonymy among the English terms are puzzling. Definitions are frequently unclear and occasionally wrong. There are cases in which the non-English equivalents for a single term are certainly not synonymous with each other. The utility of the indexes would be enhanced if the number of non-English synonyms given were greater.

However, if approached with care, the volume can provide much useful information. In works of this type it is probably unfair to expect perfection. Besides, a dictionary which manages to encompass both *negative entropy* (information theory) and *scrivener's palsy* (authors and authorship) has to be interesting, at least.

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