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## **BOOK REVIEWS**

Saffady, William. Micrographics. Library Science Text Series. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1978. 238p. \$15 U.S. and Canada; \$18 elsewhere. LC 78-1309. ISBN 0-87287-175-4.

Teague, S. J. Microform Librarianship. London, Boston: Butterworths, 1977. 117p. \$8.50. LC 76-44504. ISBN 0-408-70799-2. (Available from: Butterworths, 19 Cummings Park, Woburn, MA 01801.) S. J. Teague and William Saffady have written two useful books on microforms, albeit from different points of view. Teague has organized his work as a "guide [to] assist librarians in formulating a positive micropublications acquisitions policy" (Preface). Saffady offers "a systematic presentation of the basic facets of micrographics as applied to library work" (Preface).

This approach gives Micrographics a wider scope than Microform Librarianship; however, both books discuss microformats, the microform reading room, the uses of microforms in libraries, COM (computer-output-microfilm), and micropublishing.

Teague sets out to correct librarians'

overeager response to microforms as the solution to all library problems and would have librarians understand microforms "as a vital complement [to the books now in libraries] offering enlargement of resource in knowledge sources, economy in publishing, in distribution and storage" (p.5). He covers user reaction and neatly summarizes the objections to using microforms. The economic advantages of microforms include savings of time required to obtain items and of space as well as the provision of information unavailable in book format. His chapter on micropublishing includes a helpful short survey of micropublishers.

· In Chapter 9, "Miscellaneous Microform Topics," learning packages, collections of "key" literature, theses in microform, color microforms, archival quality microforms and standards, cataloging microforms in the library, sources or general bibliographic guides to micropublications, informational guides on microform equipment, and use of microforms in hospitals are briefly examined. The conclusions of Chapter 10 focus on the author's belief in the superiority of microfiche over other formats and on his positive, practical suggestions for using, even exploiting, "microform provisions to the extent of its useful possibilities" (p. 104). Examples given throughout the book are taken from British library practices.

Librarians reading this book will want an opportunity to discuss his opinions with the author. For example, many libraries, of all types, have purchased thousands of reels of open-reel (non-cassetted) microfilm. To state that it is being omitted from consideration as a suitable type of format because "it is inconvenient to use and is thus a negative factor in promoting microform use" leaves a major problem area of microform librarianship unaddressed (p.105). Readers might also find further amplification of the author's "acquisition strategy" very useful.

In writing a "brief guide" Teague highlights many important topics. The brevity of description, unclear logical connections between subjects, and a difficult-to-follow writing style detract from the information contained in this book.

Micrographics, on the other hand, reads easily enough to be pleasantly perused on a commuter bus! The organization of the topics is clearly laid out in the table of contents; librarians will also discover aspects of micrographics not generally covered in similar writings. Chapter 3 on source document microfilm gives a thorough description of the technology, equipment, and supplies needed to produce microforms from source documents. Chapter 8 on microform storage and retrieval systems presents both the theory and practices of various types of indexing microforms.

Three levels of bibliographic controlnational and international, local, and internal-are systematically discussed in Chapter 7. New technologies of computerinput-microfilm, microfacsimile transmission, other new recording methods, new understanding of microforms including micrographics education, and the need for research into the cost/performance advantages of microforms represent a glimpse into the future of micrographics in libraries in Chapter 9. Saffady's obviously extensive knowledge of micrographics and his positive, pleasant presentation of his voluminous amount of information recommend this book.

Unfortunately, because of an assumption that the book will be mostly used as a textbook with a qualified instructor to offer assistance, some generalizations and statements are incorrect or incompletely explained. In describing equipment costs the author states, "A high-quality microfiche reader can be purchased for about two hundred dollars. A reel microfilm reader of comparable quality costs twice as much" (p.38). Most librarians who have recently investigated equipment costs will be surprised by that estimate; a figure of four to six times as much is closer to current prices.

In the section on micropublishing, the author notes that "micropublishing is a demand rather than an edition publishing process" with "no need to estimate edition size" (p.118). Frequently, however, librarians receive announcements of new micropublications asking for letters of intent or other commitments in advance of the filming process. Most often, if a minimum number of such letters are not received, the project is not undertaken.

Despite these difficulties, the book is an encyclopedia of facts about micrographics that librarians need to have always available. A revised edition of this work, carefully edited and corrected, would be the once-and-for-all book to have. In the meantime, this one will do nicely.—Judy H. Fair, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University, Stanford, California.

Reference and Information Services: A Reader. Edited by Bill Katz and Andrea Tarr. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1978. 456p. \$12.50. LC 77-20698. ISBN 0-8108-1091-3.

The indefatigable and multitalented Katz has joined library school student Tarr to edit a well-balanced and far-ranging collection of articles on reference librarianship.

In selecting articles for inclusion in this anthology, the editors place heavy emphasis on material published after 1973. So you will find only one or two historical pieces and none at all from such "old masters" as Ralph Shaw or Louis Shores. Katz and Tarr have also made a conscious effort to limit reprints from four basic journals of librarianship-American Libraries, Library Journal, RQ, and Wilson Library Bulletin. This gave them the opportunity to select for publication many articles from "less accessible" periodicals. There are two articles from C&RL, including Robert S. Taylor's seminal contribution, "Question-Negotiation and Information Seeking in Libraries" (May 1968). Several of the selections are by British and Canadian librarians and bibliophiles.

To be judged a success, an anthology such as this must achieve a fine balance between selections that depict the current state of the art of reference librarianship, those that take a look into the future of computer-assisted services, those that discuss theory, and those of a bibliographic nature. Katz and Tarr succeed admirably in this regard. Their work also manages to achieve a balance in tone, as the several serious theoretical selections are matched by some direct and straightforward chapters (such as Art Plotnik's lively and informative view of "OCLC for You and Me: A Humanized Anatomy for Beginners"). The editors have added other good change-ofpace pieces in David Draheim's humourous look at referencemanship ("I Never See Him Come Into the Library Much Anymore") and in two contributions by Nat Hentoff from *The Village Voice*. And it's refreshing to see an intelligent and perceptive layman's views present in this kind of reader.

In sum, this is a volume that will interest and inform academic librarians wishing to assess the current status and future direction of reference service. For library school students it nicely complements Katz's Introduction to Reference Work (McGraw-Hill, 3d ed., 1978).—Marshall E. Nunn, Glendale Community College, Glendale, California.

The Many Faces of Information Science. Edited by Edward C. Weiss. AAAS Selected Symposia Series, 3. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1977. 128p. \$12.50. LC 77-12103. ISBN 0-89158-430-7.

As librarians, we profess that the collection, control, and dissemination of information is our domain. The nature of information—what it is supposed to do, how it is transferred (the "phenomenon of communication")—we generally consider the province of information scientists. The definition of information science given in the introduction to this book is "that set of principles and prescriptive rules dealing with the organization, maintenance and management of bodies of scientific, technical and business information used in decision making" (p.2).

We should, as librarians, take a closer look at information science in the light of that definition and become aware of the work being done on the information transfer process and problems, or we may forfeit control of our information systems and possibly of the suppying of information altogether.

Information scientists are grappling with problems in our domain: with the change from resource as physical record to resource as knowledge and with information systems that permit interaction between people and stored knowledge rather than between people and stored document descriptions. At the very basic, theoretical end of the spectrum of information science, which this volume represents, however, most of us concerned with traditional information