

coming well known and understood by librarians in many corners of the world. Those in the United Kingdom, and to a growing degree Australia, are confronted less with the whims of an electorate than with specific directives to keep a lid on library costs. The 1976 Atkinson Report, aimed at libraries in the United Kingdom, while moving these institutions closer to the ranks of endangered species, may awaken librarians to the fact that "the old independence of the individual library and librarians" has gone the way of the dodo bird.

Colin Steele's *Steady State, Zero Growth and the Academic Library* is an important stimulant to examining the problems facing all librarians. And while "the essays in this book do not offer any radical solutions," readers will find it a welcome relief to the more-of-the-same philosophy that seems to dominate much current thinking about libraries. Elizabeth Watson's opening essay is by far the most refreshing. She not only discusses the meaning behind steady-state growth but also explores why librarians seem incapable of useful action, namely, "the paucity of information we possess about questions of central concern": the areas of costs, user behavior, and information needs. Watson poses a "value position" that should be carefully considered. Most important, she suggests actions librarians must take.

Following the point of view expressed by John Horacek, that "one can also take the Atkinson Report positively, as a sign of the times and consequently as a stimulus to thought and planning for remedial action," most of the authors in this collection attempt to provide something more than palliatives. Peter Durey stresses the need of librarians to be more effective managers and propagandists (are library schools listening?). John Dean writes a brief text on evaluating and controlling the size of collections. His "trends at Johns Hopkins University" curiously begs the question of a library in steady-state. Bernard Naylor, in assessing the factors involved in library cooperative programs, sounds an accurate warning in his penultimate sentence: ". . . it will need a very great change in libraries' present attitudes towards cooperation, if this is to have a substantial impact on libraries' current financial and space problems."

One could fuss over much that is said—or not said. The primary focus of the book, however, is to raise questions, demand attention to

very real problems, explore the dimensions of possible alternatives, and, above all, to think—probably in terms in which librarians have not felt compelled to think before. As Norman Higham concludes, "Whether individual libraries pursue previous policies, or change course, librarians will be working in a different environment with a sharpened awareness of the issues involved."—John C. Heyeck, Stanford University.

**Neal, K. W. *British University Libraries*.**  
2d ed. Cheshire: The Author, 1978.  
£3.80. LC 78-40372. ISBN 0-901570-11-7.  
(Available from the author: 59 Redesmere  
Drive, Alberley Edge, Cheshire SK9  
7UR, England.)

This second edition is intended as an introductory text for library school students and newcomers to university library work. Although the thirteen chapters cover all aspects of university librarianship in the United Kingdom, the depth of coverage is very uneven. For example, as much space is given to departmental libraries as to government and communications, or the financing of British universities and their libraries.

The content is also very variable in quality; the chapter on library planning is a good résumé of the methods and problems associated with the design and furnishing of new libraries, illustrated with examples from recent British practice. However, the standard of this chapter is rarely matched in the rest of the book. It is inevitable that an introductory text has to include much detail of basic routines and methods, and this is present in this work. But there is a tendency to highlight idiosyncrasies in the practices of individual libraries at the expense of clearly indicating good general practice, an approach which must be confusing and unhelpful to librarianship students and newcomers to the profession. They would do better consulting the works cited in the bibliography at the end of each chapter.

The author appears to have a lack of understanding of the working relationships within a university library, between the library and its parent institution, within the university itself, and between the university and the University Grants Committee, the provider of 80 percent of British university income. For example, many who have actually experienced the hard work put into preparing for a U.G.C. visitation

would disagree strongly with the quoted view that these visits border on the farcical.

The real problems facing British university libraries—finance, space, matching literature supply to reader demand, critical performance evaluation, adoption of systematically evaluated computer-based methods and routines, etc.—are largely skated over. In general, this is not a book I would recommend. I consider much of it would confuse and mislead its intended audience, the student and newcomer.—J. K. Roberts, University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, Cardiff.

Hyman, Richard J. *From Cutter to MARC: Access to the Unit Record*. Queens College Studies in Librarianship, no. 1. Flushing, N.Y.: Queens College of the City University of New York, 1977. 40p. \$2. LC 77-089466. ISBN 0-930146-10-7. ISSN 0146-8677.

Hyman, Richard J. *Analytical Access: History, Resources, Needs*. Queens College Studies in Librarianship, no. 2. Flushing, N.Y.: Queens College of the City University of New York, 1978. 68p. \$5. LC 78-18413. ISBN 0-930146-12-3. ISSN 0146-8677.

The Queens College Studies in Librarianship series has made its debut with two monographs by R. J. Hyman. These monographs complement each other and are justified by the same rationale. Even though the demise of the card catalog may seem imminent, the unit entry in book or card format must continue to provide access to bibliographic resources for a long, long while because of the high cost of converting retrospective records to MARC format. Therefore, it behooves us to realize the full potential of this instrument.

*From Cutter to MARC*, the first of the series, deals with the problem of access to "the work." Hyman points out that the unit entry can yield more than mere finding-list information if it is approached with the same search strategies as are used with an automated data base. His suggestions for "manual coordinate retrieval" are practical, should be required reading for every neophyte reference librarian, and are especially applicable in the academic environment where the needs of the scholar often require sophisticated searching techniques. This monograph deserves special commendation because it offers sensible

methods for the efficient use of readily available resources.

*Analytical Access* is concerned with the problem of access to the content of "the work." It consists primarily of descriptions of the kinds of tools available: the "in analytics" authorized by cataloging codes since Cutter's day but seldom made; the analytical entries in nineteenth-century book catalogs; periodical indexes, some of which include books as well; indexes to composite works; and the computerized data bases that now provide the major access to the content of monographic materials.

The author might well have mentioned another type of useful tool, the stepping-stones to serial indexes, which are provided not only by the mandatory notes on serial entries (see AACR rule 170) but also by tools like the *Guide to Special Issues and Indexes of Periodicals*, the second edition of which was issued by the Special Libraries Association, New York Chapter, Advertising Group in 1976.

The inadequacy of these modes of access prompts the author to conclude that abstracts of all works, monographic and serial, should "be included in all computerized data bases, all printed catalogs and cards, and also in the works themselves." Though many will agree with this proposal, Hyman doesn't address the difficult questions that such a recommendation poses, such as the high cost of professionally prepared abstracts, the uneven quality of author-prepared abstracts, and the fact that only the reader can define relevance.

At least half of each of these monographs is dedicated to appendixes, notes, etc. Although a scholarly approach is laudable, when the tail threatens to wag the dog, the reader is likely to ask, "Is this appendix necessary?" Since the historical background has been well documented in the "Notes," this reader wonders what purpose is served by a "Chronology" that the compiler characterizes as "not intended to be comprehensive, for either events or publications."

Of marginal value also is the "Glossary," which gives the customary definitions for library terms appearing in the text, even such elementary terms as "dictionary catalog." Each term when it first appears in the text is italicized and asterisked, a practice this reviewer found distracting. With the target au-