College & Research Libraries

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university librarians, but of public-librarians and college teaching faculty as well. The speeches describe the objectives of individual librarians and also what is actually occurring in the field of library instruction at the local level. A common theme of the papers is the tendency of training programs repeatedly to provide instruction on the same topics without similarly providing for putting what is learned about those topics to work.

Joyce Merriam makes recommendations for changing library instruction programs that were also made by other speakers throughout the conference. Significant among these are the need for (1) developing a sequential program of library instruction in all school systems for grades K-12; (2) indicating the transfer value of library skills to students and the purposes of academic and public libraries; (3) encouraging teachers to develop curriculum that stresses use of the library; (4) visiting of college and university libraries by school librarians in order to gain a better understanding of the libraries their students will be using in the future or of the libraries they have used in the past and in order to become aware of the library instruction programs in each type of library; and (5) developing programs to help students make the transition from high school to college libraries.

A number of talks deal with testing students to determine how much they know or don't know about using libraries. The Ohio School Library Media Test was developed to measure library ability and to determine if instruction increases this ability. The Library Skills Test from the Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries was developed for the same purpose and can be used with college freshmen as well as students in the secondary schools. Samples of these, as well as others, are included in this volume.

Also included is an example of a lecture prepared for the bibliographic instruction program at Southeast Missouri State University. This presentation tells a story, in this case about the criminal figure Al Capone, and shows the logical progression of a research project. Interspersing bibliographic information throughout an interesting talk on an exciting topic makes this approach a good change of pace for students and librarians alike.

A detailed annotated bibliography of publications dealing with library orientation and library instruction published in 1979 and 1980 is included at the end of the volume.

I found this work to be not only thought provoking but extremely useful because of its many examples and well-prepared bibliography. Because of its practical approach, this volume is a welcome addition to the growing literature on library instruction.—Donna S. Bennett, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights.

Plaister, Jean M. Computing in LASER*: Regional Library Co-operation (*London and South Eastern Library Region). London: The Library Association, 1982. 55p. (Case Studies in Library Automation) \$15. LC 83-113421. ISBN 0-85365-954-0. (Distributed in the U.S. by Oryx Press)

This case study is a step-by-step report on automation activities undertaken by libraries in London and South Eastern Library Region (LASER). From the production of ISBN location funding lists to the installation of a minicomputer with online access for member libraries, the pioneering and developmental activities, including questions asked, are described. Libraries affected initially were predominantly public libraries. The criteria set forth for the system included these factors: cheap, simple, and fast. Whether the database was used for interlending purposes or for complete cataloging service, LASER was a successful network.

But did this endeavor end with the installation of online services? Hardly, since automatic systems are not static. LASER moved from LASER on its own to LASER in cooperation. Some 25 organizations purchased space from LASER and shared resources. The movement in computer development and telecommunications enabled greater economies and more efficient utilization of resources. At the time of writing, LASER's future, largely due to expertise gained, was looking toward an even greater role—nationwide coordina-

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1985 **PA** subscription, \$600. Second subscription, when sent to same address as new or current subscription, \$300. tion and cooperation.

Does all of this sound familiar as you think about network development in the United States? Many American libraries, especially those committed to cooperation, have experienced automation growing pains as local to regional to nationwide impact networks have developed. And the consistent argument for networks has

OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary. 2 pts. Ed. by Ellen T. Crowley and Helen E. Sheppard. Detroit: Gale, 1984. 2,048p. \$145 cloth. LC 84-643188. ISBN 0-8103-0501-9.
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- American Drama Criticism: Supplement I to the Second Edition. Comp. by Floyd E. Eddleman. Drama Explication series. Hamden, Conn.: Shoe String, 1984. 255p. \$29.50 cloth. LC 83-25410. ISBN 0-208-01978-2.
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- The Art of Portraits and the Nude. Ed. by Jack Tresidder. Kodak Library of Creative Photography. New York: Time-Life Books, 1983. 104p. \$15.95 cloth. LC 82-629-77. ISBN 0-86706-212-6.
- Bennett, Charles; Taylor, Gerald; and Yatabe, Peggy. The Year-Round, All-Occasion Make Your Own Greeting Card Book. Los Angeles: Tarcher, 1984. 164p. \$7.95 paper. LC 84-8459. ISBN 0-87477-321-0.
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always been resource sharing and improved access to library materials and information.

Any library or group of libraries interested in automating to improve access to materials in a region should read this case study.—Betty W. Bender, Spokane Public Library, Washington.

157068. ISBN 0-8093-1130-5(v.10).

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- Chen, Edward and Chin, Steve. Markets of Asia/Pacific: People's Republic of China. New York: Facts On File, 1984. 124p. \$75 cloth. LC 81-3248. ISBN 0-87196-595-X.
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