

even allowing for differences in the British and American educational systems—merit serious scrutiny by anyone involved in designing library instruction programs for undergraduates. The other papers range from a report on library-use instruction in Latin America and the Caribbean to a paper on the uses of videotex for library instruction.

While each of these works has something to offer, it was the collection of papers from the *Third International Conference* that prompted this reviewer to reach for his interlibrary loan forms to find out more.—Lawrence L. Reed, *Moorhead State University*.

Association of College and Research Libraries. Bibliographic Instruction Section. *Evaluating Bibliographic Instruction: A Handbook*. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1983. 129p. \$17. ISBN 0-8389-6608-X.

This handbook is a collection of short articles written by members of the ACRL Bibliographic Instruction Section's Research Committee. It intends to serve as an introduction to evaluation methods

and to provide direction and encouragement to librarians planning to evaluate instruction programs. The chapters titled "Research Designs Appropriate for Bibliographic Instruction," "Data-gathering Instruments," and "Data Management and Statistical Analysis" are useful as checklists in the early planning stages of a study. Other chapters, "Evaluation and Its Uses" and "Evaluating in Terms of Established Goals and Objectives," describe the value of formal evaluation procedures and the need to base evaluation on clearly stated and appropriate goals and objectives.

The book works well as an overview of the formal evaluation process and brings to light questions worth considering—What is the purpose for evaluating? Is there adequate clerical support for the project? What type of computer facilities are needed? Are statistics experts available to help analyze the data in meaningful ways? Major research designs and methods of statistical analysis are surveyed briefly. Fortunately, the bibliographies provide numerous references, not only from library literature, but also from

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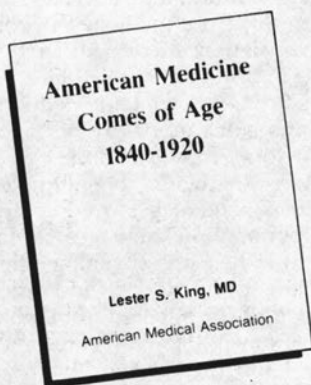
American Medicine Comes of Age ¹⁸⁴⁰⁻1920

by Lester S. King, M.D.

This significant compilation of essays traces the history of medicine in the United States from its British heritage to the famous Flexner Report. Written by Lester S. King, M.D., these fascinating articles were originally published to mark the centennial of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

American Medicine Comes of Age is 115 pages, softcover, and priced at \$9.95 (please add \$3.00 handling and delivery charge). To order, make check payable to AMA, indicate title and order number OP-184, and provide complete mailing address.

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Dr. King's other books include *The Growth of Medical Thought*, *The Road to Medical Enlightenment*, *The Philosophy of Medicine*, and *Medical Thinking: A Historical Preface*.

the fields of statistics, survey research, and education, and extend to more thorough treatments of these two difficult areas.

This work calls for a more formal, rigorous evaluation of instruction programs. Certainly, the field of bibliographic instruction would benefit from research based on scientific methodology, especially if the research leads to establishing more effective output measures. On a day-to-day basis, however, instruction librarians also need to be adept at "informal" evaluation techniques—talking to faculty members to understand their impressions of student needs, judging student reactions and making adjustments in lecture style or content "on the spot," analyzing questions received at the reference desk as representative of student needs and experimenting with new activities to meet those needs, and many others. These techniques allow librarians to tailor programs to the individual needs of their institutions and are also valuable as testing grounds from which more formal research projects can emerge. To battle-worn instruction librarians, informal evaluation methods are likely to be second nature. The formal techniques this handbook introduces may encourage these librarians to conduct evaluation based on scientific methodology. Librarians new to the field, however, would benefit from an examination of the full range of evaluation techniques. Informal evaluation may not lead directly to research and publication, but it does make an essential contribution to effective instruction.—*Martin Courtois, University of Illinois at Chicago.*

Woods, Lawrence, A., and Nolan F. Pope. *The Librarian's Guide to Microcomputer Technology and Applications.* White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications for American Society for Information Science, 1983. 215p. \$34.50. LC 83-13548. ISBN 0-87629-045-5.

Carter, Ruth C., and Scott Bruntjen. *Data Conversion.* White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, 1983. 173p. \$34.50. LC 83-84.

Each of these two 1983 offerings from Knowledge Industry Publications ad-

dresses a timely topic of interest to academic librarians as well as to information specialists in other branches of the profession. Lawrence Woods and Nolan Pope in *The Librarian's Guide to Microcomputer Technology and Applications* have compiled a comprehensive overview and resource guide to microcomputers and their use in library situations. *Data Conversion* by Ruth Carter and Scott Bruntjen attacks the multisided question of retrospective conversion.

The Librarian's Guide discusses the general fundamentals of microcomputers while focusing on library applications. The authors point to a felt need in the profession for such a discussion and state in the preface that most of the information in the text was taken from a survey of ASIS and LITA individual members and of ARL member libraries. The survey, conducted in 1982 and 1983, revealed that 67 percent of the respondents used microcomputers in their facilities.

The first chapter gives us the dime tour of computer history, which is all that is needed for the purposes of this volume. Technical buzzwords are nowhere to be found in this and succeeding chapters, and all legitimate technical terms are defined in a glossary. A basic understanding of the concept of computers and electronically stored data is expected of the reader. However, as Woods and Pope conclude in chapter 1, "As information specialists, librarians cannot afford the luxury of computer illiteracy if they are to maintain their place in the information marketplace."

Chapters 2 and 3 delve fairly deep into hardware and software descriptions covering processors, storage medium, input/output devices, networks, operating and database management systems, compilers, and programming languages. As fast as the micro industry is changing, these 1983 models, specifications, and prices provide a sound springboard from which to begin a survey of this year's offerings.

Chapter 4 outlines some designs of library-specific software, taking off on the general discussions of chapter 3. How to assess your library's needs and potential uses for micros is the topic of chapter 5. Given the multitude of options available