

badly by a web search service," yet Web indexing services are less expensive and more comprehensive than library catalogs:

This argument beggars belief. It would be far cheaper to have surgery performed by your brother-in-law Fred armed with a saw and instructions from the Internet than it would be to go to the Mayo Clinic (another institution with high labor costs). Also, once he got into the swing of it, Fred could probably perform many more operations than a team of surgeons at the Mayo Clinic.

Although some will complain that Gorman has a tendency to dismiss opposing opinions rather than dispute them, this reader finds that is true only when he has already addressed the issue elsewhere. Depending on one's perspective, Gorman is either infuriating or inspiring. I think this book is a much-needed antidote to the drumbeat from digital technology promoters. It is too bad we cannot make it required reading for university administrators, public library board members, and in what used to be library schools. It would be a sad commentary on our profession if most librarians do not feel energized and challenged by Gorman's vision of our traditions, values, and opportunities.—*W. Bede Mitchell, Georgia Southern University.*

Libraries in the Information Society. Ed.

Tatiana V. Ershova and Yuri E. Hohlov. Munchen: Saur (IFLA Publications, 102), 2002. 172p. 58 EUR; 43.50 EUR for IFLA members (ISBN 359821832X).

This is a slightly anomalous volume. It is not the proceedings of a symposium, conference, nor other organized intellectual event nor is it a general anthology on a broad topic. Rather, it is "an attempt to bring together works relating to the change role of the library as a social institution in the emerging Information Society, which were prepared by IFLA participants during 1998–2000." The authors were IFLA participants, but not all the papers seem to have been presented at IFLA. There is no index and only a very general page-and-a-half introduction. Styles and formats of papers vary considerably, ranging from

case studies to very abstract approaches. Finally, the editing is not all what it might have been. Some papers appear to have been written by writers for whom English is not their primary language, with slips (such as omitted articles) that copyediting should have fixed.

However, there is much of value in the volume. In the most general sense, the very randomness and wide range of the various papers mean that there is almost certainly something of interest to almost any librarian contemplating current issues in our profession, even if that same range means no reader is likely to find all the papers useful. Few, if any, new issues are raised here—if for no other reason than many writers are summarizing work published or presented previously for the benefit of a worldwide audience. The fact that it is an IFLA publication, of course, means that one value for North American readers will be encountering experiences and perspectives from countries less frequently reported to us. The global and summary nature of the book also means that it is a good source for "factoids" and illustrative statistics. For example, South Africa aside, Internet-connected computers in Africa jumped from "around 290" to "almost 10,000" from 1995 to 1998; Rutgers University saw a 23 percent drop in reference questions from 1996–1997 to 1998–1999. And with respect to larger context, the reviewer, who paid for library school with a World Bank consulting job, noted with shocked interest Qihao Miao's observation, when writing about the important role for "Public Libraries [in] the Global Knowledge Revolution" that "there is no significant presence of public libraries in the knowledge-related activities by the World Bank."

In general terms, the volume offers discussions of differences between, and also inside, regions and countries with respect to library access in general and access to electronic resources in particular. A perhaps-unavoidable result of the underlying problem is that many papers refer readers to Web sites and other electronic tools not all readers will be able to use.

For those who can, the brevity of the book and the papers is offset by the related or expanded materials for which addresses are supplied.

The changing organization of libraries and information distribution shows up in various ways and places—Claudia Lux's study of changes affecting former East German libraries after reintegration of the country with former West Germany is almost entirely concerned with wider organizational, political, and financial issues, yet illuminates very well how libraries exist within larger contexts we may not always see clearly. Some papers offer specific solutions, especially Alfred Kagan's summary of several reports from the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group concerning "the growing gap between the information rich ... and poor ... within and between countries." Others, by presenting case studies, suggest solutions and/or report unexpected complications.

As befits an entity as broad as IFLA, the libraries discussed are of all sorts: academic, national, public, school, and special. Although that means that not all the particulars are central issues for readers of this journal, the overarching questions usually are. And even the public library focus may be useful insofar as it tends to illuminate national perspectives on the general concept of libraries, their funding, and access to them in the various countries and regions at hand.

There are twenty-two papers by twenty-five authors, two of whom are also the editors. Six authors are from the United Kingdom; five from the United States; two each from Russia, China, Denmark, and India; and one each from Australia, Germany, South Korea, Namibia, Mexico, and Canada. Four papers are global in scope, and two are abstract without reference to specific places. Four papers chiefly discuss libraries in the U.K., three the U.S., with others covering Africa in general, South Asia in general, India in particular, and Germany, Denmark, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and China. Kagan's summary draws on reports by others in South Africa, India,

Norway, and the United States. Feria's paper, "ICT and Marketing Challenges in Latin America" covers that region but draws heavily on interesting projects at his own university in Mexico. The papers are mostly short, though this is somewhat offset by the very small type size used, which this aging reader found added effort to reading.

Among the wide range of topics, the half-life of technology reports, and the brevity of most papers, this is not an essential book for academic libraries. However, it does do an excellent job of introducing the reader to an array of related topics whose usually brief treatments gain in pithiness what they lose in detail. It would be a nice review for students facing comprehensive exams in library school. Most of all, it brings to North American readers examples and perspectives not often seen. The editors' own paper, "Migrating from the Library of Today to the Library of Tomorrow," is an especially well-done overview of Big Questions we all face.—*Gregory A. Finnegan, Harvard University.*

Lowenstein, Joseph. *The Author's Due: Printing and the Prehistory of Copyright.* Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Pr., 2002. 349p. alk. paper, \$45 (ISBN 0226490408). LC 2002-552.

The digital revolution has radically undermined the principles of copyright, intellectual property, and fair use endorsed by the international Berne Convention of 1886 and elaborated throughout the twentieth century. As Joseph Loewenstein reminds us, "property is a social institution" whose meanings derive from a complex web of social, political, economic, legal, and ideological factors. His book is not a history of the development of the modern concept of authorial rights but, rather, a series of historical "investigations" of the "imagery of literary property" in law, rhetoric, and practice in Early Modern England. It is a subtle scholarly work written primarily for specialists in English literature and history. Its aim is not to simplify but, rather, to question overly