

others to pick up the slack. I have been a professional cataloger for twelve years, and although most of what I learned was on the job as a paraprofessional, I did have some in-depth, hands-on cataloging classes in school. Colleagues of mine, who attended library school after I had graduated, received much less actual cataloging training. They have complained about the emphasis on the history and theory of cataloging (in most cases, they only cataloged a few books in an entire semester), as well as on the lack of advanced courses in cataloging. Upon graduation, they have had a hard time matching the requirements of even entry-level professional positions. The state of cataloging education is indeed in need of analysis. This book offers some insights into these problems but seems to reach the general conclusion that most in-depth cataloging education in the future will happen outside library schools.—*Isabel del Carmen Quintana, Harvard University.*

Foerstel, Herbert N. *Refuge of a Scoundrel: The Patriot Act in Libraries.* Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2004. 232p. \$35 (ISBN 1591581397). LC 2003-065950.

Foerstel's new book seems to address two needs. One is to recount an engaging and sometimes inspiring description of the continuing struggle in which library employees and others join forces against those who would impose police-state tactics to "protect our freedom" in the name of security. (Or is it to protect our security in the name of freedom?)

The second purpose would be to document some of the legal issues involved. These include a listing of the components of the Patriot Act, Homeland Security Act, and similar acts and policies that the Justice Department has initiated under the cover of fighting terrorism. This portion of the book is a reference source for those wishing to conduct further re-

search, those writing library policies on how to respond to investigative inquiries, or those actually facing the need to respond to such a request for information. To this end, sample court order forms are included in the appendices.

Many library workers will want to read the narrative but skip over the details of the legislation or proposed legislation. Foerstel writes well, documents thoroughly, and provides both a bibliography and an index. The latter is almost detailed enough to overcome the lack of a glossary, which would have been useful to help readers keep the alphabet soup of initialisms mentioned in the text straight.

The first fifth of the book is a summary of the author's 1991 *Surveillance in the Stacks: The FBI's Library Awareness Program*. Even those familiar with the FBI's Library Awareness Program will find it instructive. It documents a continuing struggle in which the pendulum has swung back and forth over the past several decades between advocates of citizens' freedom to read and the efforts of government agents, particularly the FBI, to control subversive behavior by monitoring the information-seeking habits of citizens. Reading this book, especially chapter one, cannot help but cause one to be proud to be a library worker and to realize the potential power we collectively wield in promoting democratic values. Information is power, and those who control the flow of information are powerful. If the government controls information, the citizens are accountable to the government for their actions; if the citizens control information, the government is accountable to the citizens for its actions. It is a zero-sum game. Every bit of control that one side gives up adds to the accountability it owes the other side.

Foerstel explains how difficult it is to evaluate comments made by FBI officials concerning their use of the Patriot Act to

gain access to patron information. Agents often collect information without citing the authority under which they are operating, and many of us are intimidated by their authority and arrogance. (This reviewer witnessed that phenomenon from the other side of the badge for four years as a special investigative officer for the USAF.) Vaccinating one's self by reading Mr. Foerstel's latest work will go a long way toward helping us remain level-headed when confronted by law enforcement officials.

The FBI has a long and well-documented history of doing whatever it deems necessary, whether legal or not, to gain access to information on American citizens. Unfortunately, the book includes only two brief references to Carnivore, the FBI's twenty-first-century version of wiretapping, which processes many kinds of electronic communications including e-mail. Perhaps, this can be the topic of a future book.

Foerstel has given a major portion of his energies over the past two decades to writing about this ongoing struggle. During this time, he has been on the front line to observe and participate in many of these skirmishes. His latest book continues this important work and should be a source of pride for all library workers. *Refuge of a Scoundrel* also should inspire us to continue our vigilance and to increase our efforts to ensure that those who use our libraries have full access to the information they need to earn a living and lead their lives, particularly to exercise their right to hold their government accountable. It is still far too early to write the definitive book on the impact of the Patriot Act on libraries. However, the current work is clearly a solid beginning.—David R. Dowell, *Cuesta College*.

Miskolczy, Ambrus. *Hitler's Library*.
Trans. Ridey Szilvia and Michael

Webb. Budapest: Central European Univ. Pr., 2003. 164p. \$39.95 (ISBN 9639241598). LC 2003-12659.

The "library" in question is housed at the Library of Congress, having been rescued from a salt mine at the end of World War II. This is some part of a library alleged to have been 6000 volumes strong, but, oddly, Ambrus Miskolczy never tells readers how many volumes it now comprises. It is commonplace to analyze the influences on historical figures by scrutinizing their reading matter, largely, if necessarily indirectly, by looking at whatever records survive about the holdings in their personal libraries. Sometimes this procedure is used to assess the independent value of historical sources; if *X* could have known about *Y* because information on *Y* was contained in books in *X*'s library, the probability that *X* corroborates information on *Y* is diminished by virtue of the fact that *X* had access to such information.

In this multimedia age, this would be bad method and, even under the best of circumstances, leaves a lot of loose connections. This procedure can never be probative because it is indirect in at least two significant ways: it does not account for all the matter these figures might have read, and owning a book does not imply reading that book. Although not evaluating Hitler's writings as historical sources, Miskolczy is not unaware of this and divides his study into chapters that assess the influence of Hitler's library in diminishing degree. Thus, a chapter deals with works in which Hitler penciled his own notes, which seems a bona fide way to measure intensity of interaction. Following chapters deal with books that Hitler "read into" and books that Hitler "did not read (in depth)." This latter taxonomy is based on the absence of evidence; that is, Hitler left no physical traces behind, leading to the assumption that he spent less time on these books, which might or might not be true.