merely to show and comment on the relationship of listed activities to the data gathered from the survey results.

For any planner deciding on the menu of activities for a network and needing suggestions on how to get there, *Guidelines* will be a useful tool. The ingredients will not all be applicable, and there will be a pinch more of this and a teaspoon less of that, but it will serve as a point of departure from which adjustments can be made to reflect local goals, resources, and needs. That is, after all, what library cooperation is all about.—*Donald D. Hendricks, Director of the Library, The University of Texas Health Science Center, Dallas, Texas.*

Lancaster, F. W. *Vocabulary Control for Information Retrieval,* Information Resources Press, 1972.

This is an exceptionally well done coverage of a topic vital to library practice as well as computer-based reference retrieval. It focuses its attention on vocabulary control and presents virtually every relevant aspect in a lucid, well organized, thoroughly illustrated, and technically informed manner. The professional in the field will find it as valuable as the student and teacher.

The content can roughly be divided into three parts:

(1) A general classification of various kinds of vocabularies, with a more detailed description of each (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 19).

(2) An analysis of the various steps in creating and maintaining a vocabulary (Chapters 6, 17, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12).

(3) A discussion of the use of a vocabulary (or set of them) (Chapters 13, 24; 14, 15, 16; 20, 21, 22, 23; and 18).

The general classification is now a classic one: precoordinated vocabularies (subject headings and classifications) and postcoordinated ones (thesauri and more restrictive word lists). While making this division, Lancaster is careful to point out that the distinctions, although conceptually clear, are blurred in practice. The detailed discussions are richly illustrated with examples and thorough comparative analyses.

The processing steps discussed include generating the vocabulary conceptually, pragmatically, and mechanically (the latter as part of an excellent discussion of automatic indexing and classification), organizing and displaying it, establishing standards for it, providing reference structures for it, and updating it. A full chapter is devoted to a discussion of the use of computers in carrying out these processes. Again, a wealth of specific examples are presented, each with illustrations, analyses, and comparisons.

To his discussion of the use of vocabularies, especially in evaluation of their influence on system performance, Lancaster brings his own knowledge of this crucial issue. Since he has previously written about the criteria and procedures for evaluating performance, he simply summarizes them here, but then pays specific attention to the causes of retrieval failure due to vocabulary. The discussions of forms of syntax and other rules for use of a vocabulary, of auxiliary devices for reducing failures due to vocabulary (such as links, roles, and other relational indicators), or "natural language" uses, and of compatibility between languages are all equally well informed and well illustrated. Special attention is paid to the uses of vocabulary in "on-line" situations.

In summary, this book is heartily recommended to everyone concerned with the field of information retrieval.—*Robert M. Hayes, Executive Vice-President, Becker & Hayes Inc., Los Angeles, California.*

West, Celeste, and Katz, Elizabeth, eds. *Revolting Librarians.* San Francisco: Booklegger Press, 1972. Distributed by the American Library Association, Chicago. 158p. $2.00 ppd.

The pun in the title is intended, of course, for here is a collection of 30-odd poems, stories, and articles on revolting librarians—those who revolt against the system and those who are revolting because they *are* the system. Ms. Katz and Ms. West are well known around the San Francisco Bay Area as members of the former group. Celeste is currently editor of *Synergy,* the graphically (and intellectually) exciting publication of the Bay Area Reference Center; Elizabeth is part-time librarian in the San Francisco Public Library.

Visually the book resembles *Synergy.* I recommend that you at least *look* at it even