four earlier editions published over the course of a decade.

About one third of the book is made up of charts comparing selected features of ninety-two pieces of equipment. These charts are sometimes incomplete; for instance in eighteen cases the type of construction employed for the equipment is either not stated or is "not known."

The text erroneously states that Library Resources, Inc. is the manufacturer of a high magnification lap reader. Library Resources, Inc., does market such a viewer, but it is manufactured by Technicolor.

One wonders how valid can be the publisher's claim that "the material in this volume has been updated prior to publication and is as current as possible." Despite the fact that Library Resources, Inc. has mounted a very substantial and heavily publicized development and marketing program for its Microbook® ultrafiche (Encyclopedia Britannica's *Library of Civilization*), nowhere in the book is this contribution to ultrafiche technology even mentioned. The editors lead the readers to believe that NCR's PCMI system is virtually the sole representative of the ultrafiche technique.

Auerbach on Microfilm Readers/Printers contains numerous schematic and photographic illustrations, but, relative to equipment, is almost completely lacking in evaluative comments on ease of use, durability of construction or simplicity of servicing. As for user requirements, little is said about the suitability of equipment for a given application.

There is no bibliography and no mention of the NMA's *Guide to Microreproduction Equipment*. A weak conclusion summarizes the usual "advantages" of microform—compactness, lightness, and cheapness—without renewing and reemphasizing microform's stated dependence upon adequate indexing or bibliographic control systems.

As for 35mm roll microforms likely to be found in libraries, no viewers suitable for this type of material are described in significant detail. Conspicuously absent is the discontinued—but widely installed—Recordak MPE. Information Design's library viewer, the Model 16/35, appears only in the comparative charts.

Auerbach could have performed a real service for readers (human, that is) by putting together a chapter summarizing the *human and design problems* associated with building microform viewers. At least in this way, the lay reader could have come to appreciate the optical and mechanical limitations which have thus far prevented the design, construction and marketing of greatly improved viewers. *Auerbach on Microform Readers/Printers* may be readable and understandable by the microform systems engineers, the systems analyst, or the manager of a data processing installation. The book may be suitable for technical libraries of micrographic equipment manufacturers, but its general utility is doubtful. Not recommended for the college or university library.—*Allen B. Veaner, Assistant Director for Bibliographic Operations, Stanford University Libraries.*

Stueart, Robert D. ***The Area Specialist Bibliographer: An Inquiry into His Role.*** Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1972. 152 p.

The development of the area specialist bibliographer since World War II represents a major new direction for academic librarianship in this country, and in this study Mr. Stueart attempts to learn something about this phenomenon. Bibliographers, their backgrounds and their roles, are examined, as they are perceived by themselves and by others.

The study is based largely on responses to 362 questionnaires which were sent to area specialist bibliographers, library administrators, and faculty members who are teaching in area study programs in ARL institutions. The questions relate to the bibliographers' preparation for their assignments and the respondents' notions of precisely what their functions should include.

In the matter of preparation, nothing significant is learned, except that the backgrounds and training of the bibliographers who responded vary greatly, and they seem to bear no relationship whatever to what faculty and library administrators feel is necessary in the way of background.

Respondents were given a list of tasks which were assumed to be associated with bibliographers' responsibilities and were

asked to agree, be neutral, or disagree as to their being appropriate to their function. The responses present a picture of confusion and disagreement as to the bibliographer's role which is disquieting at best. While there was substantial agreement that they should keep abreast of what is being published in their areas, and communicate this information to the faculty, there was a strong feeling on the part of many faculty members that bibliographers should not be involved in actual book selection, evaluating the collection as it relates to the curriculum, weeding the collection, coordinating book selection practices, or participating in faculty meetings. Also, library administrators were noticeably less enthusiastic than the bibliographers about their attending national area studies meetings or going on buying trips to their areas.

No one seems to know just what bibliographers should be doing, or even who should decide what they should be doing, and the recommendations at the end can hardly be said to constitute new or original approaches to this long-standing problem. ("The bibliographer must articulate his own identity . . ." "Libraries should begin to recognize the importance of area bibliographers . . ." "The library administration and the area faculty . . . must make serious attempts to reach an understanding as to the role of the area bibliographer in the university. . . .") This is one of those studies, complete with all the academic paraphernalia of footnotes, bibliographies, and behavioral science jargon, which tells us almost nothing that is useful. It is a fuzzy picture of a fuzzy situation, one which badly needs some careful thought and serious study given to it.—*Norman Dudley, Assistant University Librarian, University of California at Los Angeles.*

Rawski, Conrad, ed. ***Toward a Theory of Librarianship: Papers in Honor of Jesse Hauk Shera.*** Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1973. 564 p. $15.00.

Forethought: Surely it must be at least slightly embarrassing to have a festschrift in your honor published by a press founded and run for so many years by your archrival and severest critic!

This festschrift in honor of the sometime dean of Western Reserve was designed by its editor to "bring together original papers on theoretic concerns attendant upon librarianship." (p.42) After a refreshingly honest introduction by Verner Clapp, the standard laudatory introduction by the editor, and a bibliography by Gretchen Isard of Shera's 381 articles, books, columns, editorials, reports, and reviews, there are some 24 papers covering the Pertinence of History, Basic Issues, Information Retrieval, Catalog Topics, Contexts, Forecast, and Library Education by the usual clutch of distinguished scholars and librarians including Sidney Ditzion, Paul Dunkin, Robert Fairthorne, Douglas Foskett, Eugene Garfield, Neal Harlow, Patricia Knapp, John Metcalfe, Ranganathan, Maurice Tauber, and Robert Taylor.

Despite Mr. Rawski's claims and despite his best efforts to produce a unified volume, this book remains, like nearly all festschriften, primarily a miscellaneous collection, of uneven quality and originality, of papers on a somewhat related topic. One cannot really "ponder the state of things documented here and the generic problems which, in various ways and to various extent, these papers address." (p.49) If these papers do share anything in common, it is the effort to foster the notion, nurtured and advocated by Shera among others, that librarianship can be given the aura of science and the trappings of academic respectability by the use of the signs, symbols, and jargon of logic, mathematics, and philosophy to interpret and explain the concepts of librarianship. Unfortunately the net result is to make at least a quarter of these papers incomprehensible to me and I suspect to most other librarians without extensive scientific background and training. This approach to librarianship is increasingly common and I, for one, would like to see a careful evaluation of it by a competent nonlibrarian. Perhaps such papers are leading us forward into a new age of librarianship and are expanding our scope. Surely, however, it might be possible to express this in words and concepts more intelligible to the average librarian than: "Documents exist in terms of object, content, and (intended and not intended) use potentials: they all exhibit certain physical characteris-