for College Libraries: Approximately 14,000 Titles Selected on the Recommendation of 200 College Teachers, Librarians and Other Advisers, prepared by Charles B. Shaw, 2d preliminary ed. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1931. 810p.) A supplement covering 1931–1938 material still in print appeared in 1940. *Books for College Libraries: A Selected List of Approximately 53,400 Titles Based on the Initial Selection Made for the University of California's New Campuses Program and Selected with the Assistance of College Teachers, Librarians, and Other Advisers,* prepared under the direction of Melvin J. Voigt and Joseph H. Treyz (Chicago: American Library Association, 1967. 1056p.).

2. The makeup of the set is as follows: Vol. I (Humanities: classes A-BD, BH-BX, M-N. 250 p.).—Vol. II (Language and Literature: classes P-PZ, 452p.)—Vol. III (History: classes C-F. 349p.).—Vol. IV (Social Sciences: classes G-L. 372p.).—Vol. V (Psychology. Science. Technology. Bibliography: classes BF, Q-Z. 257p.).—Vol. VI (Index: Author Index, p.1-144; Title Index, p.145-388; Subject Index, p.389-402). Fiction in English is classed, not in LC's PZ, but by national origin.

Myers, Margaret, and Scarborough, Mayra, eds. *Women in Librarianship: Melvil's Rib Symposium.* Proceedings of the Eleventh Annual Symposium Sponsored by the Alumni and the Faculty of the Rutgers University Graduate School of Library Service. (Issues in the Library and Information Sciences, no.2) New Brunswick, N.J.: Bureau of Library and Information Science Research, Rutgers University Graduate School of Library Service, 1975. 112p. $4.95. (ISBN 0-8135-0807-X)

Sellen, Betty-Carol, and Marshall, Joan K., eds. *Women in a Woman's Profession: Strategies.* Proceedings of the Preconference on the Status of Women in Librarianship Sponsored by the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table Task Force on the Status of Women, Douglass College, Rutgers University, July 1974. 90p. $3.50. (Available from Betty-Carol Sellen, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, NY 11210.)

The urgent need to develop specific strategies to end sex discrimination in librarianship is underscored by the concurrent publication of proceedings of two conferences concerning the status of women in the profession.

The Rutgers symposium, more traditional in format, included delivery of papers with audience discussion. Harold Wooster's fable, "How the Library Changed Its Spots—An Ain't So Story," is followed by Anita R. Schiller's "Sex and Library Careers," a historical and statistical review of occupational inequality between the sexes:

> Whatever occupation we examine . . . very consistently . . . women earn lower salaries than men . . . are concentrated in the lower level jobs, and . . . tend to be segregated into those positions that are typed for the female sex. . . . It is not due simply to the willful discrimination of prejudiced males [but] . . . institutional conditions—social, economic and cultural (p.14).

Especially pertinent for academic librarians is her analysis of varying career patterns of men and women librarians:

> Women librarians are more likely to work in school libraries, where about nine out of every ten librarians are women, than in libraries of other types, and least so in academic libraries, where the corresponding figure is just over six out of ten. However, if work in each type of library is ranked by the level of esteem it is accorded, the ranking is ordered precisely in reverse . . . academic libraries are at the top and school libraries at the bottom (p.15).

Psychologist Carol W. Sherif's "Dreams and Dilemmas of Being a Woman Today" pokes holes in sociological and psychological arguments about women's competence, sexuality, and mental health which are advanced to maintain the status quo. Herman Greenberg, personnel officer for The Free Library of Philadelphia, finds "Sex Discrimination Against Women in Libraries" to be largely non-existent. Lively rebuttal to his remarks is included in the text of the discussion.

Both this volume and *Women in a Woman's Profession* include the bibliography *Women in Librarianship, 1920-1973,* an excellent comprehensive chronological listing of English-language materials. (It should be noted that Ms. Myers has recently issued an updated edition.)

The appendix to *Women in Librarianship* also includes the useful reference chart,

"Federal Laws and Regulations Concerning Sex Discrimination in Educational Institutions, October 1972."

The first Preconference on the Status of Women in Librarianship was planned as an action-oriented feminist experience:

> The direction was always to consider specific problem areas and potential strategies for solution. . . . From the beginning it was intended that the preconference would utilize talents and abilities already present among women librarians and not call upon experts or big names outside the profession (Introduction).

The brief history of how female librarians have organized themselves since 1969, in the introduction, points up the need for a definitive history of the role of women in libraries.

The first general session was opened by Anita Schiller with "Librarians and the Domestication of the Consciousness," exploring why librarianship is a woman's profession. The second general session consisted of reports by rank-and-file librarians, "resource people," on self-image, education, affirmative action, career development, unions, regional and local organizing, and tactics. These served as a starting point for the next day's workshops, whose form and content were determined by participants. The final action session consisted of workshop reports and the strategies formulated.

The preconference was meant to be a base for future actions and organization of female librarians. (A second preconference was held in 1975.)

Personal reactions to the preconference, lists of participants' names and addresses, and films shown appear at the end. Photographs enliven the text. Unfortunately, the volume was poorly edited, containing numerous glaring typographical and grammatical errors. This shortcoming becomes understandable when it is realized that the editors commendably managed to publish the proceedings less than one year after the conference.

Hopefully, the two volumes, more interesting than most proceedings, will have a consciousness-raising effect on both female and male librarians (not just decision-making administrators, but staff members unhappy with low salaries and unequal bene-

fits) to examine the personnel, salary, and staff situations in their libraries and to define possible actions for amelioration of existing inequalities.

Both of these volumes should be purchased for the professional collections of all libraries. They present a challenge to our profession to assume leadership with the other ranking female professions of education and nursing in the nationwide battle to end discrimination.—*Sherrie S. Bergman, College Librarian, Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts.*

Christian, Roger W. *The Electronic Library: Bibliographic Data Bases 1975–76.* White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, Inc., 1975. 118p. $24.50 (copyrighted pub.; reprod. prohibited); $60.00 (single copy plus license to reproduce). (LC 75-7724) (ISBN 0-914236-02-4)

Library Networks '74–'75. General editor: Seth Goldstein. Report editor: Martin R. Miller. White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, Inc., 1974. 110p. $24.50 (copyrighted pub.; reprod. prohibited); $60.00 (single copy plus license to reproduce). (LC 74-82906) (ISBN 0-914236-01-6)

The impact of on-line retrieval systems permitting interactive communication between the computer and the user may well be reflected in the recent upsurge in the use of machine-readable data bases and may result in an even greater proliferation of library networks in the future. However, even with the off-line capability, the data-base industry and library networks have been growing so rapidly since 1970 that it has been a problem to keep up with developments in both areas. Both of the reports here reviewed fall short of the goal when they attempt to project the state of the art in the growth of bibliographic data bases through 1976 and in the development of library networks through 1975.

For the price of these two publications, and even in spite of the price of these publications, they can in no way compare with the excellent chapters on machine-readable data bases by Gechman (*Annual Review of Information Science and Technology* [*ARIST*], 1972) and Williams (*ARIST*,

1974) or on library networks by Miller and Tighe (*ARIST*, 1975). Of the two works issued by Knowledge Industry Publications, however, my reaction to *The Electronic Library*, by Roger W. Christian, was far more positive than to *Library Networks*, with Seth Goldstein as its general editor. The latter would profit immeasurably by being returned to the editing board. In fairness to both authors, however, I should indicate that neither attempts to be comprehensive, but each tries to be selective in his respective presentation. It is to Christian's credit that he does not attempt an in-depth analysis of the data-base industry, but focuses instead on the structure of the industry. He presents a "brief sampling of the wares and modus operandi of representative data base publishers, indicating not only their scope and variations, but their similarities."

Christian discusses three aspects of the industry: the role of the publisher or producer of machine-readable data bases; the role of the distributors or vendors who provide access to published data bases, including the purveyors of the communication facilities that link on-line data-base vendors to their subscribers; and, finally, the role of the users (libraries, research and development, and the general public). With a series of effective brush strokes he sketches the contributions of such major nonprofit and commercial publishers as the National Technical Information Service, the American Chemical Society, the United Engineering Center, INSPEC, and the Institute of Scientific Information. He discusses the marketing techniques and services of the major vendors such as Systems Development Corporation and Lockheed, as well as provides a brief insight into the operations of the smaller vendors or the third-tier retailers. Christian points out that the structure of the industry is confusing, and that a chaotic competition appears to exist between private enterprise, the federal government, and government-subsidized services.

In his final chapters, Christian reviews the effect of the industry on libraries and those problems confronting the user relative to cost of the service, charging of fees for information, the redundant coverage of the literature, and the problem of training the