

of the research efforts of sociologist Peter H. Mann of the University of Sheffield. His earlier studies, *Books and Reading* (London, 1969) and *Books: Buyers and Borrowers* (London, 1971), had previously led to a pamphlet on "Books and Students" (London, 1973). Mann provided the framework for the sessions as the first speaker. He insisted that the lecturer is the key person in the communication network dealing with books on the campus and as such must be challenged to give more information and cooperation. Mann suggested the need for sanctions against professors who do not send reading lists to the library, but in a more positive vein he stressed the need to give bibliographic instruction and for librarians to work with lecturers in planning the syllabus of a course.

The need of the student for guidance and the dependence of both the librarian and the local bookseller on the lecturer for information came up frequently in the talks and discussions. A discussion group that was asked to say how to persuade lecturers to give students useful information about books came up with three suggestions: better training of faculty; seminars; and pressure to be applied by librarians, booksellers, and, especially, students. These influences would move the faculty to give positive guidance in using the library in all courses, to provide annotated reading lists, and to be open to feedback on students' actual use of books in the library.

This emphasis on change in faculty attitudes and performance was challenged by a few lecturers present at the conference, but it offers perhaps the most important message of the conference to the academic world. A conference of this kind is itself an indication of a way to change attitudes, and this volume will be decidedly useful if it encourages librarians to take the initiative in organizing similar meetings on a single campus or perhaps in a metropolitan region.

Although many of the specific comments by participants were more relevant to the U.K. than to the U.S., one comes away from the papers and questions with both new information and new incentives. One idea presented seemed especially valuable: a travelling workshop to assist colleges to

establish a program in bibliographic instruction integrated in subject courses (sponsored by Newcastle Polytechnic). A situation the conference did not explore that often complicates the communication in American universities is the presence of an undergraduate library and other separate units in the campus system.

The proceedings of this excellent conference have fortunately been made available to us in a relatively inexpensive paperback volume, which, although it has no index, is easy to use and will undoubtedly be covered by marginal annotations by academic librarians wise enough to get their own copies.—*Robert J. Merikangas, Undergraduate Library, University of Maryland, College Park.*

A Century of Service: Librarianship in the United States and Canada. Edited by Sidney L. Jackson, Eleanor B. Herling, E. J. Josey. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1976. 354p. \$25.00. LC 76-41815. ISBN 0-8389-0220-0.

Operating Budget Cuts?

Less staff for equal work? Save time and trouble, get the most for your money with service designed to meet your needs. Reduce staff time in claim work and direct ordering — let us do the work. Any book in print (U.S. and Canada) can be supplied with custom invoicing and prompt, accurate reporting of back ordered titles. Give us a trial order and see what our "Concerned Service" can do for you!

— Call 517-849-9361 Collect —



The House of
Superior
Library Service

BOOK HOUSE

208 West Chicago
Jonesville, Mich. 49250

The celebration of the American bicentennial sparked a resurgence of interest in our national past, a search for national identity and viable values in a changing world. On a very much smaller scale, the commemoration of the centennial of the formal founding of the American library profession in that bibliothecally fertile year 1876 stimulated American librarians, also groping for a renewed sense of purpose, to consider the evolution of their profession and the contexts in which it has been practiced.

The resultant publications and meetings reflect this increased interest among librarians in their collective professional past as well as the growing number of scholars among them who have been seriously and critically probing that past. *A Century of Service* joins the list of centennial histories (among them the July 1976 *Library Trends* devoted to "American Library History: 1876-1976" and the fine series of articles on the history of academic and research libraries and librarianship in the 1976 issues of *College & Research Libraries*) that will be referred to for information for some time to come.

The editors of *A Century of Service* undertook an ambitious project—the compilation of articles that would survey librarianship in the United States and Canada over the past 100 years. It is ambitious, not only because the scope is large, but because the secondary historical literature in the field, while increasingly substantial, is not yet rich enough to form a wide and firm base for such a survey. At the same time, the authors of each article, unless they had been immersed in the historical sources for years, could not possibly be expected to have done deep research in order to write a concise overview of a century's history of a major aspect of American and Canadian librarianship, though many did gather the most significant articles and books that deal in a general way with the assigned subjects.

The resulting book is predictably and probably unavoidably uneven. The articles—altogether eighteen by twenty-one authors and arranged under four rubrics—clienteles, personnel, facilities, and environment—range from several written from a

strongly argued intellectual position to those which describe developments in terms of broad trends and key issues, to some that are mainly compilations of facts or weak expositions of complicated subjects.

The most original pieces are Dee Garrison's on women in librarianship (actually public librarianship) and Peter Conmy and Caroline Coughlin's application of sociological theory to the development of library associations. Some important topics, like library resources and bibliographical control, could have been thrown into bolder relief (though they are covered rather extensively in the *Library Trends* issue), and problems of library governance, financial support, and libraries in the political and legislative process receive not much more than passing attention.

Highlighted are several subjects that have needed historical exploration, such as library technology in relation to reference and technical services and the history of services to ethnic minorities, Afro-Americans, and the urban masses. Academic and research librarians will be especially interested in the several articles on technology and in Samuel Rothstein's survey of services to academia, Angelina Martinez' survey of services to special clientele, and John Cole's article on the national libraries of the United States and Canada.

On balance, *A Century of Service* is a positive contribution to the literature and serves to remind us once again of both the accomplishments and the problems of our profession. One hopes that historical scholarship in librarianship, already well launched, will mature to the point where book-length, integrated, intellectually powerful syntheses can be written without the difficulties and pitfalls of collaborative work or the superhuman effort of one or two authors.—Phyllis Dain, *School of Library Service, Columbia University*.

Fang, Josephine Riss, and Songe, Alice H. *International Guide to Library, Archival, and Information Science Associations*. New York: Bowker, 1976. 354p. \$15.00. LC 76-2700. ISBN 0-8352-0847-8.

This *International Guide* is an updated and expanded version of a preliminary edition published in 1973 under the title