

Machlup and Leeson have demonstrated more clearly than anyone else before what a task still lies ahead. The failure of the recently completed National Enquiry on Scholarly Communication (its report published by Johns Hopkins, 1979) to come to terms with even the basic concepts of the problem is a similarly clear illustration. According to the introduction, Machlup expects to publish a revision and update of his 1962 study in the next few years. We look forward to this with great anticipation. Meanwhile, these three volumes of primary data should be on the desk of everyone who wants to work in this field that is so essential to academic librarians.—*Hendrik Edelman, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.*

Serials Management and Microforms: A Reader. Edited by Patricia M. Walsh. Microform Review Series in Library Micrographics Management, no.4. Westport, Conn.: Microform Review, Inc., 1979. 302p. \$21.50. LC 78-13179. ISBN 0-913672-11-4.

Like the other readers in this series, this is a collection of articles, most of which were published in well-known journals during the seventies. A general introduction by the editor describes it as "an attempt to analyze factors that would affect the efficient functioning of the microform serials collection, both from a management point of view and from the point of view of the user." The material she has chosen does that well.

Introductions to each section preview the factors treated under "Microforms and Serials: The User's Point of View"; "The Economics of Microforms and Serial Conversion Priorities"; "Specific Microform Applications: Case Studies"; "The Impact of Microforms upon Journal Format"; and "Extended Applications of Microforms for Serials." The appendix contains excerpts from *A National Periodicals Center: Technical Development Plan* and a statement about the CONSER File on COM.

Many of the authors quoted stress the importance of studying the usage patterns, budget, and personnel of the individual libraries before deciding to convert all or part of the collection to microform. Only then can they expect to enjoy the benefits of the

change, including the replacement of back issues often at lower prices than paper copies. Purchasing the microform eliminates preparing, binding, and processing volumes while costing less than binding and saving 90 percent of the storage space needed for hard copy.

A viewing area with well-designed, easy-to-operate equipment, sufficient storage cabinets, and enthusiastic personnel are prerequisites for obtaining user acceptance, lack of which reputedly results from poor management decisions. The case studies represent libraries connected with large and small universities, junior colleges, a high school, and a hospital. Librarians wish all microform items could be in the same format in order to save equipment costs and instruction time. Additional readings listed at the beginning of each section, as well as after many articles, make evident the proliferation of writings on the topic.

Libraries receiving many inquiries about microforms and that do not want to risk the disappearance of hard copies of these informational articles will find this volume worthwhile.—*Sister Alma Marie Walls, Immaculata College, Immaculata, Pennsylvania.*

Personnel in Libraries. LJ Special Report #10. New York: Library Journal, 1979. 63p. \$5; cash with order, \$3.95. ISBN 0-8352-1192-4. ISSN 0362-448X.

This group of essays offers a brief, succinct overview of some of the problems encountered by library personnel in this era of rapid change. It covers a wider range than personnel work, per se, as could be mistakenly interpreted from the title.

There are ten essays and one bibliography, most of which should be thought-provoking. No definitive answers are attempted, but several of the essays have references appended that are helpful for further investigation. Some of the areas covered include management, continuing education, performance and evaluation, associations, sexual discrimination and economic inequalities (with bibliography), and a helpful bibliography of general and library-related personnel literature.

Many changes have occurred over the years that have had an effect on libraries

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and librarians, and the responses to those changes have never been unanimous. Perhaps an underlying theme to these essays can be stated in this way: The effective management of the human resources available should be realized in a fair and meaningful way, and individuals should grow, develop, and become contributing members of a maturing profession that fully appreciates the value of each one.

It is important that individuals, as persons and as librarians, recognize the worth and value of themselves and the tasks they are performing. Believing in one's self and one's work is necessary in order to realize the overall worth and value of the profession as a whole. Until that is accomplished, we may well remain, as one essay indicates, "a pliant and passive profession."

Another essay, by Kenneth J. LaBudde, calls for "a national voice for university libraries." It is all well and good and true that there is a need for a strong, effective voice, but perhaps it should be a voice for librarians as librarians and not just as university or school or public or special or, even, male or female librarians. As Benjamin Franklin remarked to John Hancock on July 4, 1776, "We must indeed all hang together, or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately."

Special Report #10 should be an excellent catalyst for further thought, discussion, and research.—J. Wayne Baker, Ohio Northern University, Ada.

McCoy, Donald R. *The National Archives: America's Ministry of Documents, 1934-1968*. Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Pr., 1978. 437p. \$19. LC 78-2314. ISBN 0-8078-1327-3.

The appearance of Donald R. McCoy's history of the National Archives is even more timely given the circumstances that led to the recent resignation of the archivist of the United States, James B. Rhoads, and the rather murky process by which Rhoads' successor will be selected. The National Archives, as McCoy so thoroughly documents, has been immersed in a swirl of politics since its inception. It appears that the present situation does not represent a substantial departure from firmly entrenched tradition, as the archives stands just five years