

Recent Publications

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| <i>Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped: An International Approach</i> , reviewed by Lucille Whalen | 250 |
| Velleman, Ruth A. <i>Serving Physically Disabled People: An Information Handbook for All Libraries</i> , reviewed by Lucille Whalen | 250 |
| Little (Arthur D.) Inc. <i>A Comparative Evaluation of Alternative Systems for the Provision of Effective Access to Periodical Literature</i> , reviewed by Neal L. Edgar | 251 |
| Brownstone, David M., and Carruth, Gorton. <i>Where to Find Business Information</i> , reviewed by Barbara R. Healy | 253 |
| Goehlert, Robert. <i>Congress and Law-Making: Researching the Legislative Process</i> , reviewed by Alan Edward Schorr | 254 |
| Cherns, J. J. <i>Official Publishing: An Overview</i> , reviewed by Joan G. Kerschner | 255 |
| Hu, Shu Chao. <i>The Development of the Chinese Collection in the Library of Congress</i> , reviewed by William S. Wong | 256 |
| International Federation of Film Archives. Cataloging Commission. <i>Film Cataloging</i> , reviewed by Jill Provan | 257 |
| McWilliams, Jerry. <i>The Preservation and Restoration of Sound Recordings</i> , reviewed by Edward D. Garten | 258 |
| King, Alec Hyatt. <i>Printed Music in the British Museum</i> , reviewed by Guy A. Marco | 259 |
| Lushington, Nolan, and Mills, Willis N., Jr. <i>Libraries Designed for Users: A Planning Guide</i> , reviewed by Hal B. Schell | 261 |
| Woods, L. B. <i>A Decade of Censorship in America</i> , reviewed by Martha Boaz | 261 |
| Hernon, Peter. <i>Use of Government Publications by Social Scientists</i> , reviewed by David R. McDonald | 262 |
| Grolier, Eric de. <i>The Organization of Information Systems for Government and Public Administration</i> , reviewed by Charles R. McClure | 263 |
| Bernhardt, Frances Simonsen. <i>Introduction to Library Technical Services</i> , reviewed by Dorothy Hagen Kettner | 265 |
| Kennedy, James R., Jr. <i>Library Research Guide to Education: Illustrated Search Strategy and Sources</i> , reviewed by James Doyle | 265 |
| IFLA/Unesco Pre-Session Seminar for Librarians from Developing Countries. <i>Resource Sharing of Libraries in Developing Countries</i> , reviewed by Miles M. Jackson | 266 |
| Ollé, James G. <i>Library History</i> , reviewed by Wayne A. Wiegand | 267 |
| <i>Team Librarianship</i> , reviewed by Peter Dollard | 268 |
| "Emerging Patterns of Community Service," reviewed by Damaris Ann Schmitt | 269 |
| Allerton Park Institute, 24th, 1978. <i>Supervision of Employees in Libraries</i> , reviewed by Michael B. Binder | 270 |
| Tanselle, G. Thomas. <i>Selected Studies in Bibliography</i> , reviewed by John F. Guido .. | 271 |
| <i>Book Collecting: A Modern Guide</i> , reviewed by Don Lanier | 272 |
| <i>Collectible Books: Some New Paths</i> , reviewed by Don Lanier | 272 |
| Draper, James, and Brooks, James. <i>Interior Design for Libraries</i> , reviewed by D. Joleen Bock | 275 |
| U.S. <i>Book Publishing Yearbook and Directory, 1979-80</i> , reviewed by Mary E. Thatcher | 276 |
| Powell, Judith W., and LeLievre, Robert B. <i>Peopework: Communications Dynamics for Librarians</i> , reviewed by Mary B. Cassata | 277 |
| Abstracts | 279 |
| Other Publications of Interest to Academic Librarians | 284 |

BOOK REVIEWS

Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped: An International Approach. Key Papers Presented at the IFLA Conference, 1978, Štrbské Pleso, ČSSR. Edited by Frank Kurt Cylke. New York: K. G. Saur, 1979. 109p. \$19.80. LC 79-14646. ISBN 0-89664-013-2.

Velleman, Ruth A. *Serving Physically Disabled People: An Information Handbook for All Libraries.* New York: Bowker, 1979. 392p. \$17.50 plus shipping and handling. LC 79-17082. ISBN 0-8352-1167-3.

Two works, quite different in scope and intent, add to the ever-growing literature on library service to disabled persons. While it would be difficult to compare them, since one is a compilation of papers and the other is an information handbook, both serve a useful purpose.

Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped: An International Approach contains the key papers presented by the Working Group of Librarians for the Blind at the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Congress held in Czechoslovakia in 1978. The group had been organized after the 1977 IFLA Congress when librarians working with the blind and physically handicapped had been invited to meet with the Hospital Libraries Section of IFLA. Frank Kurt Cylke, director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of Congress, not only took the lead in urging the formulation of such a group but also proposed five areas of study requiring immediate attention: copyright, bibliographic control, postal regulations and custom laws, formats, and international liaisons. These are the topics covered in the key papers.

An excellent state-of-the-art paper on the various formats in nonprint media serves as an introduction to the small volume. Following that are chapters on copyright and postal and custom laws, which bring up-to-date regulations in these areas and point out the problems encountered by those serving print handicapped readers who must deal with national laws in addition to international conventions and accords. The fourth pa-

per describes international organizations, such as the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, with whom the group should cooperate.

The final paper is a plea for standardization in cataloging special format materials for the blind and handicapped—not only to facilitate access to materials at the international level but also to save costs in cataloging when such materials are acquired.

These well-written papers would be particularly helpful for those who must concern themselves with problems in such areas as copyright, interlibrary loan, and cataloging codes.

Serving Physically Disabled People: An Information Handbook for All Libraries is the first comprehensive book on the subject from the library point of view. Its author, Ruth Velleman, who is head librarian for the library media center at the Human Resources School on Long Island, is especially qualified to write this book. In addition to her work at the Human Resources Center, which includes not only the school for some 200 orthopedically disabled young people, but also a work demonstration center for physically handicapped adults and a research center, Velleman has been teaching a course on library services for the disabled; much of the material in the book was gathered in preparation for her class.

The basic arrangement of the work is by type of library, i.e., one of the main sections is devoted to the public library; another to the special rehabilitation library; and the last to school and university libraries.

It should not be read as though each part were complete in itself, however. If one were to read only the part on school and university libraries, for example, one would miss almost all of the discussion on the very important Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other laws relating to the civil rights of the disabled. Similarly, if one read only the part on the public library, an extremely useful section on rehabilitation research and services would be missed.

The field is so complex it is difficult to put it in separate categories—there is always some overlapping—but Velleman has managed to present an enormous amount of information, with references as late as Janu-

ary 1979, with a minimum of redundancy.

Two of the fourteen chapters are presented by others: "The Librarian and the Blind Patron," by Hanan C. Selvin, a blind sociology professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and "Special Needs of the Deaf Patron," by Alice Hagemeyer, a deaf librarian at the Washington, D.C., Public Library. Both discuss library services from the point of view of their own disabilities and include many resources and services that should be of interest to those serving blind and/or deaf patrons.

Velleman discusses attitudes toward handicapped individuals, types of physical disabilities, legislation, information for independent living, barrier-free design, rehabilitation, special education, and the role of the library in serving special groups.

Each chapter contains many references to materials and services in addition to the footnote citations found at the end of each chapter. There are also three chapters devoted entirely to resources: "A Core Public Library Collection," "A Model Rehabilitation Library," and "A Core Special Education Collection." Each is further divided into subject areas such as legislation and financing, sex and the disabled, travel, and death; and extensive, annotated bibliographies are provided for each.

Appendixes include lists of various agencies, training centers, resource centers, and sources of equipment with addresses and phone numbers. There is also a detailed index which adds considerably to the usefulness of the book.

While a great deal of valuable and sometimes difficult-to-find information has been brought together in a well-written and concise manner, perhaps the most valuable part of the book is that on attitudes and understanding. If librarians had read this earlier, perhaps there would have been no need for the emphasis placed on services to the disabled at the recent White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

Both of these works are important—indeed Velleman's must be considered a landmark—but they will be useful for different reasons. Certainly all librarians who are serving or should be serving disabled people should have the Velleman book. Those

who are interested in the international aspect of problems relating to materials for the handicapped should also have the IFLA volume.—Lucille Whalen, *State University of New York at Albany*.

Little (Arthur D.) Inc. *A Comparative Evaluation of Alternative Systems for the Provision of Effective Access to Periodical Literature*. A Report to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. Washington: National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, 1979. 1v. (various paging). LC 79-6278. (A limited number of copies are available free from NCLIS, 1717 K Street, NW, Suite 601, Washington DC 20036. May also be ordered at \$4 per copy from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., Washington, DC 20402.)

The periodical crisis for libraries, now recognized to be of major proportions, is defined in a series of five important documents and additional secondary literature. Vernon Palmour's *Study of the Characteristics, Costs and Magnitude of Interlibrary Loans in Academic Libraries* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1972) is the first, pointing to the major costs and administrative problems for academic libraries. The Association of Research Libraries concluded from this study that the best way to reduce ILL costs is to improve periodical loans, and alternatives are suggested in Palmour's *Access to Periodical Resources: A National Plan* (Washington: ARL, 1974).

Further work by Palmour, Bernard Fry, Peter Watson, and others led to the conclusion that other periodical costs can be reduced through some form of cooperative arrangement. NCLIS appointed a task force on a national periodicals system to prepare a specific plan, and their suggestions are in *Effective Access to the Periodical Literature: A National Plan* (Washington, 1977), referred to as the Green Book. The core of the proposed national periodicals program is the creation of a national periodicals center (NPC), a facility to house a national collection used to provide nationwide interlibrary loans for periodicals at greatly reduced national costs.

In the fall of 1977, the Library of Con-