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BOOK REVIEWS

ALA World Encyclopedia of Library and Information Services. Edited by Robert Wedgeworth. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1980. 601p. \$85. LC 80-10912. ISBN 0-8389-0305-3.

The literature of librarianship has increased at an exponential rate during the past decade. While questions may be raised about the quality of many works coming from the press, it is gratifying to report that the newly published *ALA World Encyclopedia of Library and Information Services* provides a substantial corpus of reliable information in an attractive and well-edited volume that will be useful for many needs. As stated in the editor's preface, "The *ALA Encyclopedia* seeks to explain fundamental ideas, record historical events and activities, and portray those personalities, living and dead, who have shaped the field."

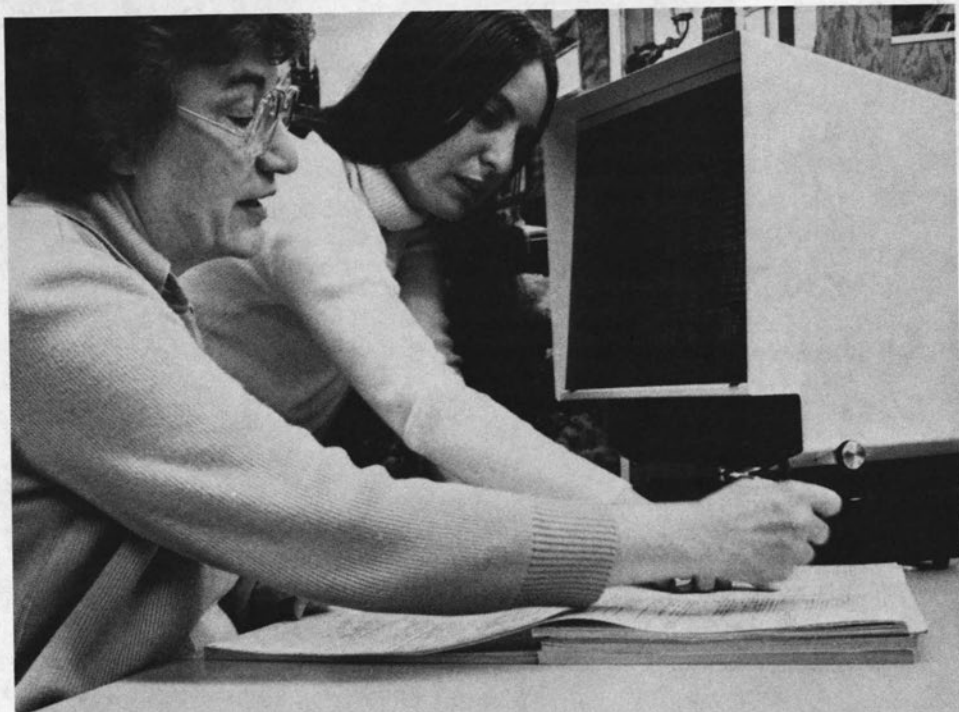
This work, for which planning began in 1976, contains 452 articles (approximately 700,000 words) written by 364 contributors from 145 countries. In addition, there are some 300 illustrations that enhance the volume's aesthetic qualities and 144 statistical tables that furnish valuable supportive data. A unique feature is the "parallel index," which runs in the margins on each page side by side with the text and provides cross-references that easily lead the reader to related or additional sources of information. If located in one place following the traditional format, this index would be equivalent to approximately thirty-two pages.

In order to plan and carry out this publication effort thirteen general advisers and twenty regional advisers were selected to assist the editor and members of the editorial staff. Sixteen advisers were drawn from the United States, including seven library educators, two Library of Congress staff members, and the remaining nine from a variety of library and related positions. Among the seventeen advisers from other countries seven were from Europe (although there is only one representative from Eastern Europe and the Slavic countries and none from Scandinavia, Spain, or Portugal), six from Africa, two from Asia

(but no representative from the Indian subcontinent, China, or Japan), and one each from Australia and Canada. Unfortunately, no advisers were chosen from the Latin American countries, although one of the general editors formerly served as chief of the Library Development Program for the Organization of American States. Among the contributors, library educators account for a very substantial number of articles.

Following the customary pattern for encyclopedias, articles are arranged in alphabetical order. Each article (or portion of multi-authored longer articles) is signed and, in many cases, references are given to additional sources of information. Readers needing convenient access to articles on related subjects will find the seven-and-one-half-page "Outline of Contents" especially helpful because it provides a classified approach to the entire volume. This feature, along with the parallel index, greatly increases the *Encyclopedia's* usefulness.

The classified outline is divided into five parts. "The Library in Society" is the heading for part one, which features articles on the history of libraries in the ancient world, the Middle Ages, and the modern world. The last category includes coverage of 162 countries, providing information for each on the national library, academic, public, school, special, and other libraries, library associations, and statistical data about volumes in collections, annual expenditures, population served, and professional and other staff. In many cases photographs of library buildings, services, and activities or unique materials accompany articles and add graphic value to supplement the text. Part two, entitled "The Library as an Institution," consists of nine major articles on academic, law, medical, national, public, and special libraries, school libraries/media centers, archives, and state library agencies in the United States. Each of these articles, in turn, is divided into subarticles that provide detailed information on a range of subjects such as purposes and objectives, services to users, collections, administration and governance, finance, measurement and evaluation, professional training, and laws and legislation. Issues related to the "Theory and Practice of Librarianship" are dealt with in part three. The philosophy of



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librarianship, collection development, bibliographic organization, user services, and public relations are among the subjects covered here. Again, much information is provided on a range of topics under each of these subjects. "Education and Research" is the heading for part four, which includes articles on the history, curriculum, and issues of library education; information science education; training programs, research, and standards related to archival administration; continuing professional education in librarianship; and research related to library and information science. Part five, "International Library, Information, and Bibliographic Organizations," provides extensive coverage of many library-related groups, with information for each on its founding and membership, purpose, history, organization and structure, programs, publications, and relations with other organizations.

A good example of the breadth and depth of subject treatment may be found in the section on academic libraries (eighteen pages), which is divided into seven subsections, each written by a different author. Beginning with a review of the purposes, goals, and objectives of academic libraries, the article continues by describing in detail the services that are provided for users; the development and importance of collections to support teaching, research, and service; key issues in administration, governance, and finance; standards and trends in the measurement and evaluation of effectiveness; the bases and practical concerns of library cooperation; and laws and legislation that affect both the support and operation of academic libraries. As an aside, readers may regard as too idealistic the statement "The collections in university libraries include *all* those materials necessary for direct support of the university's instructional programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels," (p.2, emphasis added). Likewise, some will question whether during the 1960s and 1970s "the service aspects of the technical processes became predominant" (p.6) or whether "the cumulative effect of all accountability devices has been to increase the number of administrative staff positions in academic libraries" (p.11). Overall, however, the substance and con-

tent of this section is very fine.

Biographies are included for 172 people, both living and deceased, who have served as librarians or library educators or have contributed substantially to library developments. Although these articles are distributed throughout the volume, the names of subjects are listed in the Outline of Contents by geographic areas, i.e., Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe, North America, Oceania, and South America. Unfortunately, the basis or criteria upon which biographical sketches have been included is not described. Thus, one wonders about the inclusion of Benjamin Franklin but the exclusion of Thomas Jefferson among the historical figures; of Henry Clay Folger but not John Crerar or Walter L. Newberry among prominent benefactors; or about the absence of Ellsworth, Lydenberg, Parker, and Powell among the administrators; of Dalton, Danton, and Mitchell among the library educators. Considering that the *Dictionary of American Library Biography* (1978) has provided excellent coverage for deceased people, the *ALA Encyclopedia's* inclusion of biographies fills a void for prominent living Americans in librarianship and especially for many people outside the United States who have made substantial contributions in their own countries or internationally.

Acquisition and reference librarians, as well as bibliographers, will find the article on national bibliographies especially valuable. It contains a list of 100 current national bibliographies "compiled from the catalogues and collections, and with assistance from the staff, of the Library of Congress." National bibliographies were included as current if "known to be active during the 1970's, even if its coverage lagged considerably behind the imprint date." While most large academic and research libraries should already have access to this information, many librarians with medium-size and smaller collections will welcome knowing where they may find information on the bibliographies for remote countries and newly emerging nations. Among the newer entries in this field are the bibliographies for Barbados, Benin, Burundi, Guyana, Liechtenstein, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, and Zaire.

Excellent coverage is also provided in the

article on archives, a subject that has been neglected in much of the current literature of librarianship in information science but that deserves greater awareness. In the span of twenty pages, comprising eight separate areas, consideration is given to the nature, goals, and principles of archives; legislative foundations; current records management; internal processing, arrangement, and description; services to users; technical aspects; archives management; and professional training. A helpful description is given of the historical background and current values of archives in relation to education and research, and of the Society of American Archivists' role in establishing standards for professional training and practices. Similarly, articles on special libraries, services to the handicapped, indexing and abstracting, library and information science research, micrographics, cataloguing and classification, bibliographic networks, and censorship and intellectual freedom are all factual and well written. Under censorship and intellectual freedom serious objection may be raised to the statement that the Pauline Epistles were "the beginning of what still today persists as a basic Christian attitude in favor of concealment and prudishness in regard to sexual matters, of veneration for asceticism and chastity" (p.124). With due respect to the author's contributions in the area of censorship, he is definitely outside his field and beyond the range of his expertise in having written that statement.

Considering its size and scope, the *ALA World Encyclopedia* contains remarkably few errors. This accomplishment is a tribute to the efforts of the editor and his staff and to their selection of authors. The careful reader will note a discrepancy in the dates for the opening of the Folger Shakespeare Library, given as both 1932 (p.201) and 1933 (p.579). Although captions and brief descriptions are provided for graphic illustrations throughout the volume, they are lacking for photographs on pages 200, 253, 451, 497, 498, and 510. Recognizing from the title that the *Encyclopedia* was intended to be worldwide in scope, the inclusion of extensive information about libraries and related organizations in foreign countries is most appropriate and commendable. The

American reader might feel, with some justification, that treatment of library and related professional associations in two columns of the article on the United States is insufficient, whereas articles of that or greater length are devoted to individual associations of many foreign countries. Balance of coverage may also be questioned. For instance, law and medical libraries are given lengthy treatment whereas theological libraries do not even appear in the "parallel index." Moreover, the American Theological Library Association is mentioned in only one sentence in the section on library and related professional associations in the United States (p.581). Similar criticism may be expressed on behalf of libraries in several other special subject and professional fields. The authors of historical articles are especially to be commended for full and comprehensive coverage of their subjects. Their contributions add significantly to the literature of library history.

The *ALA World Encyclopedia* clearly fills a need for a one-volume reference work that provides extensive and up-to-date information related to libraries and information services. Although the multivolume *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, edited by Kent, Lancour, and Daily, is far more monumental in both length and scope, and although *The ALA Yearbook* published annually since 1976 provides timely "state-of-the-art" coverage, neither of these works lessens the value or appropriateness of this new ALA publication. The volume is attractively designed and the clarity of type, composition, and overall format make it easy to use. Printed on Forest Book Natural English Finish paper and bound in maroon buckram with gold embossed lettering, this volume's aesthetic qualities complement its considerable value for reference and research.—*Kenneth G. Peterson, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.*

Metcalf, Keyes DeWitt. *Random Recollections of an Anachronism; or, Seventy-Five Years of Library Work*. New York: Readex Books, 1980. 401p. \$14.95. LC 70-67213. ISBN 0-918414-02-4.

Librarians have been surprisingly reticent in writing about themselves. William War-

ner Bishop, Louis Shores, and, a little earlier, Arthur E. Bostwick have written autobiographies. J. C. M. Hanson's manuscript of his early years has recently been edited for publication, and there are a few more, but we have much less than we should about American librarians in their own words. Metcalf overcame his reluctance only after urging from his publisher and his discovery that younger librarians in his library administration seminar at Rutgers in 1958 were indeed interested in listening to his informal accounts of libraries and librarians. Once convinced, he spent five years reviewing his correspondence and some at Oberlin and New York Public Library and calling up details from a remarkable store of memory. This volume, covering the first forty-eight years of his life as student and librarian, is written in an earnest, straightforward style that will earn no literary awards but tells with unmistakable clarity what one librarian recalls of an extraordinary career. In these days when self-revelatory autobiographies crowd the bookshelves, Metcalf's book may seem remarkably impersonal. Indeed, there are many points at which one would like to interrupt the narrative to ask what he felt about the events that have just occurred. His engagement and marriage to Martha Gerrish, the birth of his children, and other personal details are reported as matter-of-fact occurrences. Some matters are simply not to be discussed with strangers.

Metcalf's childhood and early education, which occupies the first quarter of the volume, seem harsh by today's standards, but there is no suggestion that he or his brothers and sisters considered themselves unfortunate in any way. His mother died when he was five and his father three years later; his oldest sister, Marion, gave up her teaching career to return and take care of the younger children. Metcalf's obvious pride in referring to other members of his family throughout the book suggests that she must have been a remarkable woman. His recall of those years, if not total, is remarkable in details: His first motion picture, breakfast in a Cleveland restaurant for ten cents, weeding an onion field for five cents an hour, reading J. S. C. Abbot's *Civil War* and Theodore Roosevelt's *Naval*