still be researching, analyzing, and writing. In this book the author "stops time" in mid-1978. OCLC has changed considerably since that time; some of the significant events occurring after the covering of this book include the Industrial Revenue Bond sale for over $32 million, the design and building of new facilities, a new president, and a new name: OCLC Online Computer Library Center. Basically this book covers the period of OCLC's existence from its beginning as the Ohio College Library Center to its change to a national utility: OCLC, Inc.

The author attempts to place the development of OCLC in the context of the history of library cooperation and resource sharing. Therefore a significant portion of the work deals with the history of library cooperation, beginning with the sharing of resources between the great library at Alexandria and the library at Pergamum in the second century B.C. and continuing to current times. Thus, he sets the stage for the creation of OCLC as a new and powerful tool to facilitate resource sharing and library cooperation.

The primary objective of the author is to bring together the mass of material about OCLC and to organize it in a logical order, showing the evolution of this American library institution since its inception in Ohio in 1967. Using both primary and secondary source material, the author succeeds in bringing together in one relatively short work an abundant supply of information regarding OCLC. He is not as successful in organizing the material. All too frequently information is repeated or related information is separated; for example, the composition of the Board of Trustees after the transition to OCLC, Inc., is repeated on two successive pages while discussion of the Ohio College Association's role is split between chapters.

Although the author attempts to set OCLC in the context of the total networking environment, he includes relatively little information concerning state and multistate networks, which have been very much a part of OCLC's history and success. He basically restricts his comments on that aspect of OCLC to his own network, PRLC.

Because the book is very detailed and some parts are elementary, it is a good work for both library science students and practicing librarians with little knowledge of OCLC

and resource sharing. For those who are more knowledgeable of the current networking scene, the book provides a concise historical perspective of OCLC.—*Joseph F. Boykin, Jr., Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina.*

Cheney, Frances Neel and Williams, Wiley J. *Fundamental Reference Sources.* 2d ed. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1980. 351p. $12.50. LC 80-21617. ISBN 0-8389-0308-8.
Reference Sources 1980 (V.4). Comp. and ed. by S. Balachandran and M. Balachandran. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Pierian Pr., 1980. 364p. $65.00. LC 77-79318. ISBN 0-87650-127-7.

In scope the second edition of *Fundamental Reference Sources* does not differ significantly from the first: selected sources of bibliographical, biographical, linguistic, statistical, and geographic information, presented in that order, with an introductory chapter on the nature of reference and information service, a unified index to authors, titles, and subjects, and appended guidelines for evaluating atlases, bibliographic reference sources, English-language dictionaries, and general English-language encyclopedias. The content has been updated by the addition of new titles that appeared (with few exceptions) before June 1979, and the text throughout shows careful revisions ranging from restructured overviews of the major categories to such details as the substitution of "our" for "man's" in many phrases and the elimination of the title "Dr." from the names of persons who are not Samuel Johnson. These revisions contribute to a smoother text without altering the work's emphasis (more evident now than in 1971) on traditional forms of reference tools. Databases are covered rather briskly in just over two pages of the section introducing periodical indexing and abstracting services and are scarcely mentioned thereafter; online availability is noted in annotations for *PAIS* and *Index Medicus* but not for other titles cited earlier as examples. Similarly, although the chapter on sources of statistics includes a new and remarkably technical passage on statistical methods and terminology, it barely alludes to any but conventionally published materials. In short, this book does not and is clearly not

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intended to bridge the gulf between librarians who keep forgetting that *Social Sciences Citation Index* is available online and those who have never thought of it any other way. It is instead a rigorously updated version of a reliable selective guide to printed sources, with useful annotations.

Reference Sources 1980 is the opposite of selective in its listing of reference works on a full array of subjects and levels of importance or triviality, identified through reviews or "books noted" columns in nearly 600 periodicals (a substantial increase over the 270 sources indexed by the 1979 volume). The first three annual volumes of this title listed works by main entry with editor and title cross-references and several subject indexes, and brief descriptive annotations were included. The 1980 volume is arranged by Library of Congress subject headings with author and title indexes and the annotations have been abandoned, though review citations are appended as usual.—*Jean Aroeste, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.*

On-line Public Access to Library Bibliographic Data Bases: Developments, Issues and Priorities. Final Report to the Council on Library Resources. OCLC, Inc., and the Research Libraries Group, Inc., September 1980. 62p.

The opening summary statement of this document is straightforward: "This report describes several activities to assess the critical issues and problems in designing and developing library bibliographic retrieval systems for direct patron use." We are several times reminded that no issues are resolved here, nor is any attempt at resolution made. The intention and the accomplishment was to draw together information and opinion as well as organizations and individuals in addressing this vital topic.

The report describes a survey of thirty-seven libraries, utilities, and consortia operating or developing public access systems. It describes (and includes the text in an appendix) an "issues statement" prepared for discussion by a "working session." The participants in these working sessions are identified in an appendix; the "consensus of their concerns" is summarized in the most interesting section of the document. The language of the report neutralizes what must have been lively and fascinating conversations. Consider, for example: "Although there were differing points of view on the readiness of the profession to formulate a whole range of standards, there was general agreement that the standard setting process should begin now."

The working group defined (made notes towards a definition is again closer to the spirit, I expect) a public access online catalog. At one point this process of definition does move perilously close to saying something definitive, however, given the groups involved; we are told that "locating all works by a specific author or on a specific subject implies authority control with an adequate reference structure." The working group identified four areas as having the highest priority for immediate study and action: "1) Analyzing user requirements and behavior 2) Monitoring existing public access systems 3) Developing methods for cost management and 4) Developing distributed computing and system links." The priorities are hard to quarrel with and their order correct and laudable.

If this report is written and presented in a manner not unlike most reports to sponsoring agencies, that fact should not discourage one from reading it with interest as well as gratitude. It would be hard to overstate the debt the profession and the public owes to the Council on Library Resources for taking up this vital question in this manner, for bringing together OCLC and RLG as coauthors of this report and the activities it describes.— *Ann Bristow Beltran, Indiana University, Bloomington.*