site for a reading area (with attention to heating and lighting requirements); desk- and table-space needs and room arrangements; and selecting and maintaining microform equipment, including a detailed discussion of microform cameras and film processing for in-house work, as well as the usual readers, printers, and microfiche duplicating machines.

Successive chapters deal with storage equipment and training and orientation of staff. The chapter on storage equipment provides a thorough discussion of all the different types of cabinets, boxes, panels, and stands that can be used to accommodate microform, with emphasis on the desirability of each in open- and closed-stack collections. In terms of new material, the most significant chapter in the book is on training and orientation of staff and student assistants. While most librarians would recognize the need for staff training in the use of microforms, it is probable that few have devised a detailed program for accomplishing this goal. The excerpts from the Princeton program along with the other suggestions for user orientation are very fine. Wisely, the conclusion comments on the existence of video-disk technology, but offers the opinion that it will be some time before video disk will replace microforms in libraries.

On the whole, this handbook presents sound, practical information. Much of it is not new information, but the book's usefulness is enhanced by the many accompanying photographs. There is a complete bibliography, a glossary of microform terms, and an index, which make it a good reference point for newer microform librarians.—*Jean Walter Farrington, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.*

Slote, Stanley J. ***Weeding Library Collections—II.*** Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1982. 198p. $21.50. LC 81-20724. ISBN 0-87287-283-1.

This edition adds little to Slote's 1975 edition. The first eight chapters are identical, with only a few new literature references added. As before, Slote advances "shelf-time period" as the objective variable which should be used to predict future use of any given volume. Shelf-time period is the length of time a book remains on the shelf between successive uses. The new material describes how to select a method for weeding and gives detailed instructions for each possible method.

The method selected depends upon the library's circulation method. Slote details each circulation method, giving sample forms, and how to identify a core collection satisfying a given percent of user requirements. Where permanent circulation records already exist (e.g., charge slip or book cards), a sample of these is analyzed to determine the shelf-time period to be used as the cutoff period for removal of titles from the shelves. Where records do not exist (primarily in transaction card or computer systems), the spine dotting method is recommended. Spine dotting can also be applied to noncirculating materials.

It is interesting that Slote considers only (1) identification of titles to be weeded, and (2) their removal from the shelves as weeding. As to adjusting the card catalog (the only type of catalog mentioned), the author states that he is not adverse "to leaving the cards representing weeded works in the catalog" (p.166). He does not state whether or not he is in favor of marking the cards to indicate that a title has been withdrawn (to be discarded or stored), and his methods do not include any mention of adjusting the library's catalog or any other records. He questions the necessity of an accurate, up-to-date card catalog in a nonresearch library.

Slote devotes scant attention to the difficulties of weeding a large academic collection (one page) or special libraries (one-half page) although, in the literature discussed, he does include a review of work done in university collections that support shelf-time period as the best predictor of future use. He does state that his methods are applicable in university libraries and that the weeded titles should be removed to secondary storage. (How the user is to know that they are there is not mentioned.) He does not address the fact that special libraries, which are characterized by in-depth collections in a narrow subject field or format, can often find little to weed, and that what is weeded must most often be discarded, rather than stored.

Although it is nowhere stated as such, Slote seems to be addressing only the weeding of monographs and does not mention the

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considerable literature devoted to periodicals weeding. He also makes no mention of the American Library Association's recent *Guidelines for Collection Development* (American Library Assn. Resources and Technical Services Division, Collection Development Committee. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1979), which contains a chapter on "Review of Library Collections." These guidelines see review (weeding) as part of the collection-management process and would be more useful than Slote's work to most academic librarians contemplating weeding. This book is recommended only for academic collections supporting a library-science program or to individuals with a strong interest in the subject of weeding.—*Barbara A. Rice, State Library Cultural Center, Albany, New York.*

Boss, Richard W., and Marcum, Deanna B. **"On-Line Acquisitions Systems for Libraries,"** *Library Technology Reports* 17:115–94 (March–April 1981). Single issue, $40.

Attendance at meetings devoted to discussions of automating acquisitions indicates that librarians need current and accurate information in this area. The authors of this report attempt to provide information to help librarians evaluate acquisitions systems.

The authors first list seven categories of automated systems: in-house, transferred software, software houses, integrated, turnkey, utility, and jobber. They then describe twenty specific automated acquisitions systems, divided into these seven categories. The depth of the description varies depending on the operational status of the specific system.

The rest of the report is designed for librarians planning to choose automated acquisitions, with sections on questions to ask in order to evaluate a system, and specific steps to take in procurement. Boss and Marcum conclude that libraries will benefit in the long run from integrated systems, and should pressure suppliers of automated systems to provide them.

The appendix has some sample screen displays; a list of WLN charges; general specifications for DataPhase's and OCLC's acquisitions systems; names, addresses, and contacts for the twenty systems described; and a bibliography on automated acquisitions.

Unlike a famous winegrower, this *LTR* report was issued before its time. The purpose of *LTR* is to provide librarians with "authoritative information" on products so that informed purchasing decisions can be made. This report fails to provide this information. Many of the automated systems described were still under development in 1981, and descriptions of these systems are not critical, but simply state what the company hopes the system will do when (and if) operational. After reading this, the librarian is no better off than if he or she had read publicity releases from the company. The items in the appendix provide little helpful information, and the bibliography, with citations easily found in other sources, lists only two articles published after 1978. In order to provide the critical evaluations which are needed, this report should be redone next year, emphasizing major operational systems. In the meantime, librarians needing guidance on automated systems will find the papers presented at the LITA Institute on Automated Acquisitions (published in *JOLA*, V.13, no.3 and no.4, Sept. and Dec., 1980) more useful than this *LTR*—*William Z. Schenck, University of Oregon Library, Eugene.*

International Handbook of Contemporary Developments in Librarianship. Ed. by Miles M. Jackson. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1981. 619p. $65. LC 80-27306. ISBN 0-313-21372-0.

This is a collection of thirty-four original articles by fifty-one authors, on libraries and librarianship in sixty-five countries. Editor Miles M. Jackson, professor of library studies at the University of Hawaii, states that the purpose of the volume is to present an "overview of the major developments and most significant trends in librarianship since 1945." He adds that the book is concerned with international librarianship and is "not intended as a work of comparative library studies." Actually it is a kind of one-volume, long-article encyclopedia of libraries and librarianship by country.

Typically, each article provides brief historical, geographic, and occasionally political background, followed by information on the national library and on university, pub-