some, the reader will want to go to more detailed material rather quickly or to a consultant. This is a good first book for anyone; and except for the most experienced library manager working in this area, it is difficult to see how anyone would not gain useful practical advice from the more detailed chapters.— *Lawrence Miller, Florida International University—Tamiami Campus.*

A Reader on Choosing an Automated Library System. Ed. by Joseph R. Matthews, Chicago: American Library Assn., 1983. 390p. $35. LC 83-11821. ISBN 0-8389-0383-5.

Intended to complement the editor's earlier publication, *Choosing an Automated Library System: A Planning Guide* (ALA, 1980), this collection of forty articles extends considerably beyond the concept of merely *choosing* an automated library system. The book's seven sections encompass topics ranging from needs analysis and the selection process and contracts, to installation, implementation, and the impact of automation in libraries. The latter section comprises 40 percent of the book and contains subsections on acquisitions, cataloging, the catalog, circulation, and online search systems.

Although badly dated in some respects and neglecting some applications of library automation, the selections are generally well chosen. Most derive from papers presented at conferences or are reprints from monographs or the standard library literature representing such authors as John Kountz, Paul J. Fasana, Michael Gorman, Susan K. Martin, Richard Boss, S. Michael Malinconico, and D. Kaye Gaypen. In addition, there are a handful of articles written for this collection and selections from outside the library literature. The latter include useful essays on cost analysis and contracts reprinted from *Computing Surveys and Datamation.*

Of the new articles, those most welcome are Kevin Hegerty's essays on contracts and vendor and/or system selection, William F. Adiletta's "primer" on data communications (which suffers, however, from being written prior to the breakup of

AT&T) and Nolan Pope's article on contracts, which provides an excellent explanation of the RFI/RPI process, good advice on writing RFPs, and clear explanations of such terms as benchmarks, performance bonds, escrowed software, and acceptance tests.

The editor's introductions to each of the sections are generally helpful in stating the problems and setting the stage for the articles that follow. On p. 23–24, however, there is unfortunate confusion between "standard bibliographic records," "MARC records," and LC cataloging distributed by the MARC distribution service. An index adds to the book's usefulness although at least one entry (Cataloging in Publication) contains only blind references.

Considering that the earliest of the thirty-five reprinted articles dates from 1967, and that half of the others stem from the years 1979–80, this useful collection can be utilized either for its historical viewpoint or as a rapidly aging but useful aid for library managers involved in the automation process.—*Charles W. Simpson, University of Illinois at Chicago.*

Arny, Linda Ray. *The Search for Data in the Physical and Chemical Sciences.* New York: Special Libraries Assn., 1984. 150p. $17. LC 83-20376 ISBN 0-87111-308-2.

The title of this work will pique the interest of any scientific or technical reference librarian; we are daily challenged with requests for reliable data on sometimes obscure properties of often obscure substances. Linda Ray Arny is an obviously experienced reference librarian who used a sabbatical to "investigate the nature, generation, collection, and retrieval of physical and chemical data in general, and to analyze and index National Bureau of Standards' compilations in particular." The first part of her book begins by discussing the nature of physical and chemical data, the difficulties involved in locating and critically evaluating data, and data centers that have been established to compile reliable data. Arny presents a brief but thorough review of the problems involved, and although she does not cite my