

but not surprisingly, these vary in tone and quality. They range from a brief overview of evaluation by Mary Jo Lynch entitled "Measurement of Public Library Activity: The Search For Practical Methods" to a long survey article entitled "Evaluating the Collection" by George S. Bonn. Also included is a particularly good work called "Personnel Evaluation as an Impetus to Growth" by Ernest R. De Prospo.

Because the intended purpose of the course was to provide an overview of evaluation to a wide audience of practitioners, efforts have been made to show applications in a variety of library settings: public, academic, and school. As such, some of the examples may appear less appropriate than others. This shouldn't deter the reader, however, because the authors have done a good job of presenting their information in an appropriate and very readable format. They have taken a complex process and made it understandable to the general reader.

Unfortunately poor proofreading mars this otherwise admirable effort. Numer-

ous errors occur, the worst of which is missing or altered wording making some sentences totally unintelligible. It is too bad that some of the same thoroughness advocated for the evaluation process couldn't have been applied to the production of this work.—Robert Logsdon, *Indiana State Library, Indianapolis.*

Seibert, Warren F., and others. *Research Library Trends, 1951-1980 and Beyond: An Update of Purdue's "Past and Likely Future of 58 Research Libraries"* (Lister Hill Technical Report, LHNCBC 87-2). Washington, D.C.: Department of Health and Human Services, 1987. 181p.

As the title indicates, this report is an update of the earlier title, *Research Library Trends, 1951-1980*, published in 1965. The original data spanned the years 1951 through 1964 and were the foundation for forecasts of selected trends through 1980. The Purdue studies (p.xii) also updated the statistics through 1972. This volume presents some estimates of future trends through 1990.



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The introduction (p.1) states: "library growth is described as rapid, accelerating, daunting, and destined to remain that way," but "the statistics used to measure growth are not well-defined and hence, their results cannot be trusted." Following this ambiguous beginning is a discussion of American college and university library statistical studies dating back to a book published in 1940 and ending with articles printed in 1986. This study was published in 1987 and therefore was timely. However, trends in current research libraries are changing more quickly than ever before due to automation, proliferation of information, funding or the lack of it, and so on, and even 1986 statistics are of limited use in 1989.

"The principal study results describe 35 years of growth and change in library holdings, gross volumes added, professional and non-professional staff size, and in three expenditure categories—salaries, materials and binding, and total, as well as

university/main campus total and graduate enrollments, and Ph.D. degrees awarded" (p.iii). Rapid growth in many areas is shown from 1951 through 1970, but very different trends surface beginning in 1971. To illustrate, gross volumes added tripled between 1951 and 1970, leveled off or dropped through 1982, and increased every year since; this information was presented in the report's abstract and would be very difficult to find either through scanning the List of Tables or List of Figures.

The text and interpretations with the statistics are very brief, and few readers/librarians will spend the time necessary to understand and use the mass of information. The correlational analyses may be valuable, but they are difficult to locate and understand. In general statistical jargon, fifty pages of graphs and abbreviated terminology (table 2) tend to lose and confuse anyone. More time devoted to analyzing and summarizing the statistics is



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called for rather than presentations of data in tables and graphs.

Suggestions for further research are included in the discussion section (p. 111). In addition to further research, more explanations of the data presented in a readable fashion would make the publication more widely consulted. A good list of references is included. An index would help readers

locate information in the text. Library statistics are always useful for forecasting trends and planning future needs in addition to supporting expansion of facilities, increased staffing levels, and more. If research library statistics are needed, this report may help.—Susan C. Awe, Northern Arizona University.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Acid Rain Abstracts Annual 1988. New York: Bowker, 1989. 222p. \$195 (ISBN 0-8352-2640-9).

African Book World & Press. Ed. by Hans Zell. New York: Saur, 1989. 340p. \$135 (ISBN 0-905450-50-7).

Age of Maturity, 1929-1941. V.5. Detroit: Gale, 1989. 426p. \$60 (ISBN 0-8103-1820-2).

Artificial Intelligence Abstracts Annual 1988. New York: Bowker, 1989. 422p. \$395 (ISBN 0-8352-2639-5).

Austrian Fiction Writers, 1875-1913. V.81. Ed. by James Hardin and Donald G. Daviau. De-

troit: Gale, 1989. 405p. \$98 (ISBN 0-8103-4559-5).

Authors and Artists for Young Adults. V.2. Ed. by Agnes Garrett and Helga P. McCue. Detroit: Gale, 1989. 265p. \$55 (ISBN 0-8103-5051-3).

Awards, Honors, and Prizes: An International Directory of Awards and Their Donors. Ed. by Gita Siegman. Detroit: Gale, 1989. 1,312p./V.1; 791p./V.2. \$165/V.1; \$189/V.2 (ISBN 0-8103-5085-8/V.1; ISBN 0-8103-5086-6/V.2). LC 85-070620.

Bonn, Thomas L. *Heavy Traffic and High Culture.* Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois Univ.,

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by

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