



Recent Publications

Book Reviews

Breivik, Patricia Senn, and E. Gordon Gee. *Information Literacy: Revolution in the Library*. New York: American Council on Education, 1989. 250p. \$24.95 (ISBN 0-02-911440-3). LC 89-2845.

In *Information Literacy: Revolution in the Library* Patricia Senn Breivik and E. Gordon Gee urge top-level academic administrators to look beyond the traditional role for libraries in colleges and universities and to consider how library personnel and resources can be used to accomplish campus priorities. Concerned about the infrequent references to libraries in many of the recent reports on educational reform, Breivik, director of the Auraria Library of the University of Colorado at Denver, and Gee, president of the University of Colorado, suggest a wide range of possible roles for the library and librarians on campus. They spell out the ways academic administrators can promote this active role for the library and librarians and cite examples from a number of colleges or universities.

The concept of information literacy underpins their vision of an extended role for libraries and librarians, particularly the role of libraries and librarians in reforming instruction. To meet the educational challenges of today's information society, colleges and universities must transform education into "active and integrated learning" that produces the "self-

directed, lifelong learner." Breivik and Gee believe that self-directed, lifelong learning is possible only for those who are effective consumers of information; that is, those who are information literate; and it is the library and librarians that are uniquely qualified to play a role in that process.

In addition to envisioning the library and librarians as critical to reforming instruction, Gee and Breivik promote and describe a significant role for the library and librarians in three other areas—increasing the productivity of researchers, serving the community, and supporting university administrative needs. The authors provide the background to enable the university administrator to act effectively to involve libraries in these areas. They succinctly summarize the current issues in library operations, and then highlight issues of people, technology, and funding for the wide-ranging library activities recommended. Gee and Breivik reiterate two key elements for the success of their vision: the necessity for a partnership between the library director and the academic administrator and the necessity for any expansion in the role of the library to support the university's objectives and mission.

Perhaps because of the authors' emphasis on advocacy, this book is not as carefully argued as one would wish. Breivik

SPACE

SAVER

Conserve shelf space and get fast, easy access to present and past life science discoveries through **Biological Abstracts® (BA) on Microfilm** and **BA Collective Indexes!**

BA on Microfilm provides citations that lead you to in-depth biological and biomedical research findings derived from approximately 9,000 serials published in over 100 countries. The same comprehensive information found in the printed publication is covered, but with minimal storage space!

And, don't miss the latest edition of **BA Collective Indexes, 1985-1989** in film or fiche! The **Collective Indexes** bring together five years of **BA Cumulative Indexes** to maximize searching convenience and minimize searching time!

For more information contact BIOSIS, Marketing Section, Dept. CRL190MF, 2100 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1399 USA. Or call toll free 1-800-523-4806 (USA except PA); (215) 587-4800 (worldwide); Telex 831739; Fax (215) 587-2016.



BIOSIS®

Information for Today's Decisions and Discoveries

Biological Abstracts is a registered trademark of BIOSIS.
BIOSIS is a registered trademark of Biological Abstracts, Inc.

and Gee often rely on unsupported generalizations to advance their cause. Many of these seem to exaggerate the importance of the library to scholars across the board and, therefore, are at odds with this reviewer's experience as well as with a number of scholars' descriptions of how they work. Although the reader may not necessarily be converted to the authors' panoramic vision, many of the points they make and ideas they present are valuable, and their book serves as a guide to action, both for the academic officer at whom it is directed, and also for the librarian who wants to involve academic officers effectively in achieving the library's goals. Few of the ideas are likely to be completely new to librarians, but their presentation from the viewpoint of the academic administrator provides a number of fresh insights.—*Melissa D. Trevvett, University of Chicago Library, Illinois.*

Nicholas, David, Gertrud Erbach, Yin Wah Pang, and Koren Paalman. *End-users of Online Systems: An Analysis.* London and New York: Mansell Publishing, 1988. 181p. (ISBN 0-7201-1995-2). LC 88-8220.

This book is a final report of an eighteen-month study funded by the British Library. It was completed in September 1987. An interim report has been previously published under the title of *Online Searching: Its Impact on Information Users* (Mansell, 1987). The stated goal of this project is to examine the effect online systems are having on information-seeking behavior among those nonlibrarians who perform their own searches in Great Britain. What it has accomplished is no doubt valuable, but more modest.

Given the immense scope of the project, an eclectic approach was adopted to gather the necessary information. The research team employed surveys, interviews, case studies, analysis of two mailings of questionnaires administered for management purposes, and literature reviews where it deemed appropriate. The project population eventually included the newspapers, broadcasting media, financial institutions in the City of London, academic departments in the universities