

years of practical experience, graduates of this bachelor's degree program might then enter a master's degree program, perhaps for a duration of two years; and some might even go on to a doctoral program. Although the undergraduate degree program is described as an information studies program, apparently intended not to be narrowly focused on libraries, the only specific content the authors discuss is instruction in cataloging. Courses would focus on practical skills such as bibliographic description and subject analysis. The master's degree program would, they say, be heavily theoretical. Graduates would become "the leaders in cataloging organizations," perhaps as administrators or master catalogers. (Nothing is said to suggest any concern for the design or development of computer-based bibliographic systems.)

After this depressingly retrograde scenario, however, there is a sudden and unexpected change of tone. A four-page concluding chapter abruptly suggests that the force of new information technologies will make librarians redefine their work; that the term *librarian* has become anachronistic; and that what may be needed is a new type of information professional who is expert in the new information technologies and educated in a new sort of professional school of information studies or communication and information systems, which would result from library education joining forces with educators in (unspecified) information and communication fields.

Then come seventy-five pages of appendices, including the Academy of Certified Archivists' "Role Delineation," the ALA's standards for accreditation as revised in 1992 and the official ALA statement on accreditation, and, rather mysteriously, thirty-nine pages from the official announcement of a new Ph.D. program in library and information management at Emporia State University. Why these items are thought worth reprinting in this context is unfathomable, and why

anyone should be expected to pay fifty dollars for a short book half of which is devoted to them is a real puzzle. The discussion in the first half is not rewarding enough to justify the cost of the book. It is true that the last few pages of discussion, with their surprise proposal, do perhaps have some value as a social indicator; however, given the tone of the rest of the discussion, it is a real surprise to find that these authors are prepared to give up the title "librarian" and the institution of the graduate library school. It is as if the authors came to a bridge at the end of their story and, perhaps to their own surprise, crossed it. Unfortunately, they got there too late for their book to be of interest to the rest of us. However, the fact that they could cross that bridge suggests that many others may be prepared to do likewise.—Patrick Wilson, *University of California, Berkeley*.

Grotzinger, Laurel A., James V. Carmichael Jr., and Mary Niles Maack. *Women's Work: Vision and Change in Librarianship*. Occasional Papers no. 196/197. Champaign, Ill.: University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 1994. 132p. \$15. (ISSN 0-276-1769).

Women, Information, and the Future: Collecting and Sharing Resources Worldwide. Ed. Eva Steiner Moseley. Fort Atkinson, Wisc.: Highsmith Pr., 1995. 296p. (ISBN 0-917846-67-2).

Many books on library issues these days are obsolete before they appear in print. It is a pleasure to report on two books that will have a longer shelf life. The first is a collection of historical essays honoring the centennial of the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science. The second is the published proceedings of an international conference at Radcliffe College in June 1994 sponsored by the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, which

featured more than 100 speakers from around the world. One book deals primarily with women as librarians in early twentieth-century America, the other with libraries and resource centers for women today.

The authors of the three articles in *Women's Work* are library historians with a deep knowledge of the history and literature of librarianship in America. Laurel Grotzinger has published frequently on early women librarians, especially Katharine Lucinda Sharp, who founded the Illinois State Library School in 1897 and served as its director until 1907. In her article "Invisible, Indestructible Network: Women and the Diffusion of Librarianship at the Turn of the Century," Grotzinger ably exploits primary sources such as letters and alumni files to trace a women's network that encompassed library schools, summer schools, state library commissions, publishing, and professional and social organizations. In his long, leisurely article "Southerners in the North and Northerners in the South: The Impact of the Library School of the University of Illinois on Southern Librarianship," James V. Carmichael Jr. provides a history of cultural confrontation in the '20s and '30s, touching on themes of regional identity, race, gender, and politics. Mary Niles Maack, in "Women As Visionaries, Mentors, and Agents of Change," outlines the dismal regression of women library school faculty from the age of "missionaries and mentors" (1887-1923) through a transitional period of professionalization that began to exclude women (1923-1950) to the era of the masculine professoriate (1951-present). The second half of Maack's rather tendentious article presents research on mentoring of women faculty in library schools today, concluding with remarks on the benefits of mentoring and the influence of the feminine "ethic of caring" on library service.

These studies give texture and color to an age (actually more than one generation) when women librarians were a

powerful, driving force in an unstoppable social movement. (Katharine Sharp "considered the library as second only to the church in its ability to do good.") It is particularly gratifying to see library history move from hagiography toward social history, where it can make a real contribution to understanding the Progressive Era. Thanks go to the archives that preserved the records that make this history possible, but regrets also are in order because we do not have enough information on the private lives of these women to explore fully issues such as sexuality, ethnicity, and class.

Another kind of missionary zeal characterizes *Women, Information, and the Future*: to empower women by organizing and disseminating information on legal rights, health, employment, politics, and the environment. These forty-six papers, mostly documentary and descriptive, only dimly reflect the enthusiasm that must have reigned at the conference itself, whose delegates were gearing up for the 1995 Beijing conference on women. Although tedious to read at one stretch, the book is highly recommended as a reference for specific information on women's resource centers such as the Fawcett Library in London, Anveshi Centre in India, Centro Flora Tristan in Peru, Asian-Pacific Resource Centre in Malaysia, and many more. Most of these centers were started during the "second wave" of feminism in the 1970s. They gained support through NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) and international organizations such as the United Nations, which sponsored the Decade for Women (1976-85). A crucial step was the incorporation of women's rights into human rights documents.

The issue of separatism crops up again and again in these papers. Should women's information services and collections be mainstreamed or set apart? Do women need classification systems and thesauri of their own? An acute problem in many regions is to find the best me-

dium and language for communicating with women, many of whom are illiterate or know only local languages. Another broad area of concern is the production of information about women. Standard statistics often omit, or at least mask, women's economic roles, which consequently are ignored in economic planning in developing countries. A more fundamental problem is that women often do not document or record their activities, making their lives invisible historically.

Each of these books encapsulates the spirit of an age, while suggesting some abiding themes in the relationship between women and libraries. The theme of gender itself is explored only partially and obliquely. A related theme is faith in progress, which may no longer prevail in

American librarianship or even in the American woman's movement, but is alive and well in women's struggles elsewhere in the world. Perhaps the theme—or rather the image—that unites the two books most strikingly is that of a network. The difference between the old-fashioned social network of personal and professional relationships and modern regional and global networks is one of technology and scope, but not function. What emerges clearly is the idea that information confers power, and power is a good thing for women to have. Although few early American women librarians identified with the woman's movement, they exemplified it in their lives.—*Jean Alexander, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.*

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