

for seminars and hands-on instruction. The Humanities and Social Sciences Data Center contains two small units that were designed to support specific research efforts at Rutgers.

Building a Scholarly Communications Center is geared toward library managers who may face the same practical concerns as the librarians at Rutgers. The authors spend little time on reviewing the relevant literature but, rather, concentrate on the nitty-gritty of how the SCC was created. Floor plans, diagrams, and tables are included, as well as other useful information such as a list of questions asked of each architectural firm and fee schedules for use of the SCC. The book also includes information about the contributors and an index. A complete bibliography would have been useful, although each chapter includes a list of references. Also, no URLs are listed for the SCC, Rutgers, or any of the institutions that were visited as part of the planning process.

This book will be of most interest to a small group of academic librarians, namely those who hope to embark on a similar project. The practical approach will make this book a valuable acquisition for them because it illustrates "the typical procedures that any academic library might expect to undergo in developing a technology-oriented facility." —*Emma Duncan, University of Toronto at Scarborough.*

The Evolving Virtual Library II: Practical and Philosophical Perspectives. Ed. Laverna M. Saunders. Medford, N.J.: Information Today, 1999. 198p. \$39.50 (ISBN 1-57387-070-6). LC 95-39544.

In this sequel to her 1996 book, *The Evolving Virtual Library* (reviewed in *College & Research Libraries* 58 [May 1997]:287-89), editor Laverna Saunders presents updated scholarship on the *virtual library*, a term that encompasses the digital or electronic segment of a traditional library's information resources. Using the same format as the earlier volume, this book begins with Saunders's essay on the effects of burgeoning electronic information

on library staff. Nine essays by different library experts follow. These are mostly case histories of working library projects or theoretical articles that address significant issues involved in the constant digitization of information.

For the academic audience, all but two of the essays (which concern public and school libraries) are pertinent. One standout is Gail McMillan's chapter on the Scholarly Communications Project (SCP), a library department she directs at Virginia Tech. Now ten years old, the SCP is an excellent example of how academic libraries can facilitate the creation of digital resources on campus as well as provide users with uncomplicated access to them. The resources offered by the SCP include locally originating e-journals, electronic theses and dissertations, electronic reserves, online news resources, and digitized images. Amazingly, SCP survives on 1.5 FTE and less than \$100,000 in operating expenses—an exceptional value in a 24,000-student university.

Another first-rate descriptive essay concerns the Making of America Web site, which is hosted by the University of Michigan and currently contains a collection of digitized primary-source Civil War documents. This project is a commendable mix of quality content, functional conversion technology, and user-friendly accessibility, all of which are clearly documented by Maria Bonn. Materials that once sat unused in a special collections department now are viewed thousands of times monthly on the Internet. Given the abundance of such one-of-a-kind resources in academic libraries, there is great potential for more projects like this one.

The George Machovec essay is an impressive technological primer on networks and telecommunications. Topics covered include LANs and WANs, operating systems, bandwidth and high-speed lines, Internet protocols, thin clients, and various methods of electronic authentication. Although written at a comprehensive level, less-sophisticated computer users can comfortably understand the material.

The best of the theoretical articles is the last chapter, a keynote essay by Marshall Keys that contains his thoughtful speculations on where libraries, virtual and otherwise, are headed. His main point—at the end of all this electronic upheaval will be unprecedented improvements in user access to information—is well taken. The path to this nirvana, however, is bound to be difficult. Keys analyzes the tenuous, yet tenacious, grasp that journal publishers, electronic information aggregators, and online system vendors have on their respective high-profit businesses. Many in the library community resent the windfalls enjoyed by privately held companies in these industries and are anxious for library-based initiatives that will reduce commercial profiteering and strengthen, rather than marginalize, traditional libraries. Perhaps future editions of *The Evolving Virtual Library* will feature case histories of successful freeware-based system solutions or project reports on an electronic library clearinghouse for scholarly research.

Both editions of this title are comparable to a “special issue” journal on this topic. The price is right (about \$4/article) and no binding is required. Professional librarians dealing with the pressures and potentials of electronic resources will find useful information here. For those laboring at less-than-progressive institutions, it is interesting and even inspiring to see what is actually possible, given favorable conditions. Of course, the usual caveat about electronic topics in print applies—beware the short shelf life. The transition from cutting edge to historical in the digital world is a very swift one.—*Paul Rolland, Mesa State College.*

The Human Face of the Book Trade: Print Culture and Its Creators. Ed. Peter Isaac and Barry McKay, from the Proceedings of the Sixteenth Seminar on the British Book Trade, Edinburgh, June 1998. Winchester, Eng.: St. Paul Bibliographies; New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Pr., 1999. 228p. \$39.95 (ISBN 1-58456-003-7). LC 99-30585.

To resurrect pre-twentieth-century book activities from dusty volumes to vibrant tomes and from deceased book people to live (and sometimes whining or conniving) book entities, the editors have selected essays from the Sixteenth Seminar on the British Book Trade, Edinburgh, 1998. Topics range from a history of books about sheep-ear notches to contentious journalism to major eighteenth-century publishing activities. The excellence of these articles (fortuitous proximity?) leaves one to wonder about those not submitted or those rejected.

Respected authors such as librarians, professors, a senior curator, an Honorary Fellow, a Master of College, and an antiquarian bookseller have highlighted auction-house collusion, explored book salesmanship, considered the book distribution patterns, recounted philanthropic achievements of the Clark Collection (Napier College), and mused on medical mis- and mal-publishing. Organization reflects a happy combination of sustained scholarly attention (“Henry Cotton...”c1813), access to rich resources (“William Smellie and the Printer’s Role”), and the capacity of the unusual to rivet attention (“Fall of the Hammer: Auctioning of Books in Manchester...”).

Beyond the diversity of topic and time period, the magnitude of detail, and the fleshing out of factual skeletons, the strengths of this collection include its extensive documentation (one article of thirteen pages has ninety-three footnotes), detailed index, and biographical sketches that highlight the special qualifications of the authors. If one is an incidental learner (who reads the word above and below the needed dictionary entry), one can expect an abundance of grazing. The rear-cover blurb and editor Isaac’s editorials are especially well-written summaries.

Truly a buffet of riches, these essays have something for nearly everyone. Some highlights worth mentioning include: cooperative publishing where one publisher lists booksellers in another city (“Charles Elliott and the English Provincial Book Trade”), analysis of publisher distribution