

This work would be a useful addition for most academic libraries.—*W. Bede Mitchell, Georgia Southern University.*

Books, Bytes and Bridges: Libraries and Computer Centers in Academic Institutions.

Ed. Larry Hardesty. Chicago and London: ALA, 2000. 220p. \$48, alk. paper (ISBN: 0-8389-0771-7). LC 99-040064.

This long-awaited book is devoted wholly to reforming the relationship between library services and computing services in academic institutions. It is a collection of twenty papers, of which nine are theoretical or historical analyses of the relationship and eleven are case studies. About one-third of the contributors come predominantly from computing center work, and the rest have experiences primarily in library services. This collection covers the topic much more comprehensively than Arnold Hirshon's *Integrating Computing and Library Services* (CAUSE Professional Paper Series 18, 1998).

The first eight chapters are theoretical or historical approaches to the relationship between computing and libraries. After a brief introduction by Larry Hardesty, college librarian of Austin College, Peggy Seiden and Michael Kathman, in their historical review, suggest that the 1980s and 1990s mark two distinctive developmental stages. They examine the forces driving computing technology, higher education, and libraries that pushed the mergers during these two stages. This opening chapter presents a broad picture of why mergers and reorganization have developed in academic institutions.

Terrence Mech focuses on the position of the chief information officer (CIO): "The need for fiscal control over expensive technology and a plan for its implementation often drove the decision to establish a CIO position." His discussion of the still evolving—and often very ambiguous—status of the CIO is informative and thoughtful.

Edward Garten and Delmus Williams describe the clashing of "cultures" between libraries and computer centers in great detail, looking at everything from organizational histories to salary differ-

ences. Full integration of the two organizations may not be the best solution. One of the main arguments for merging computing services and library services is to get rid of redundancy. Yet, to these authors, some redundancy of computing resources in an institution is beneficial, even indispensable. They prefer a relationship of cohabitation and collaboration, rather than one of marriage and merger.

The section on theoretical and historical approaches also includes: Robert Freeman, Scott Mandernack, and John Tucker's impressive literature review (from 1979 to 1998); Raymond Neff's list of reasons to merge computing and libraries and his list of reasons not to merge; Delmus Williams and Onadell Bly's development of criteria for measuring the success of the merger or coordination between computing and libraries; Paul Setze and Kimberly Jordan's examination of the often stormy relationship between small college libraries and computer centers; and Larry Hardesty's discussion of the interviews with computing administrators and librarians that he conducted at fifty-one colleges.

The majority of the eleven chapters describing case studies report positive experiences and successful outcomes in reforming the relationship between computing and library services. Based on the successful integration of computing and libraries at the University of South Carolina, John Olsgaard and George Terry have produced a list of necessary conditions for successful mergers. The top three conditions on the list are top-down support (strong support from the institution's top administration), bottom-up support (staff participation within computer centers and libraries), and side-to-side support (merging common functions to gain a shared identity and fiscal savings).

Edward Meachen's paper is based on surveys he conducted within the University of Wisconsin System. He reports on interviews with three different groups of major players—the CIOs, the chief academic officers to whom they usually report, and frontline library and comput-

ing staff—in the reorganization of the school's computing and library services. One of Meachen's findings is that the merger usually is a top-down process and the people at the top are more positive about mergers than the frontline staff.

A special piece is Robin Wagner's "The Gettysburg Experience." Wagner discusses the painful experience of the radical integration of computing and libraries at Gettysburg College. She analyzes the failure of the merger from three perspectives: planning mistakes, faulty structure, and lack of awareness of cultural differences between the library staff and the computing staff. The bad merger inevitably resulted in a negative working climate of demoralized librarians and staff, inferior delivery of services, and, finally, the discontent of college students and faculty. Wagner shows us just how damaging such a bad merger can be.

Books, Bytes and Bridges explores the important topic of reforming the relationship between computing services and libraries in academic institutions. It does not attempt to offer a single solution to this complicated issue. Instead, the book provides different perspectives on the topic, from those of librarians to those of computing center employees, working at institutions of various sizes, and who have experienced everything from moderate coordination to fanatic integration. It includes an adequate index and helpful information on contributors. Despite some weaknesses, such as the discrepancy in quality among the collected papers, the book as a whole offers a unique and significant contribution to this still-evolving field. It should be on the purchasing list of all college and research libraries and on the required reading list of academic administrators.—*Xiaochang Yu, Virginia Commonwealth University.*

Disaster and After: The Practicalities of Information Service in Times of War and Other Catastrophes. Ed. Paul Sturges and Diana Rosenberg. London: Taylor Graham Publishing, 1999. 174p. \$46 (ISBN: 0-947568-77-8).

We are all familiar with the cliché about not judging books by their covers; it may be wise to extend the warning to titles now, too, for lurking behind this volume's rather prosaic title is something far more exciting and thought-provoking than the words would suggest. This stimulating collection of essays deals not only with disasters such as flood and fire but also concentrates on war and ethnic cleansing. But even that (and the work's more descriptive subtitle) fails to tell all because the book is really about the larger picture of the threats to, and triumphs of, information service in a very hostile world. It is certainly not the book's aim to serve as a recruitment tool for library, archival, and records management programs, but well it might be. Rather, it offers an antidote to the meek and mild image of information specialists and, indeed, puts our profession in the front ranks of the many battles being fought in an era blithely referred to as the Information Age. The tales in these pages are often dark, despite the "enlightened" times we live in.

The book begins innocently enough. The introduction by Derek Law uses the standard approach, suggesting that to avoid disasters one, impossibly, must expect the unexpected. And then, aptly enough, that is what is delivered. Although there are some straightforward descriptions of library disasters and responses, one finds oneself, as in a disaster itself, in a very different realm in which a whole new way of thought is needed. The editors apparently knew exactly what they were doing, as their explanation in the back of the book proves.

The essays are from the proceedings of an international conference sponsored by the IGLA (International Group of the Library Association) held on September 4–6, 1998, at the University of Bristol. There, in the "charmed setting of an English provincial town," informational professionals gathered to report on occurrences in far-flung, violent, and often dangerous settings. In the opening essay, Linda Stoddart provides some of the basic vocabulary for disaster preparedness