

(CMP Books, 2000). Chapter ten addresses funding adaptive technology and covers personal, government, and private-sector sources of funds.

Appendix materials comprise 50 percent of the book. Especially useful are those providing Microsoft Windows 98 and Apple Macintosh keyboard shortcuts (welcomed greatly by this Mac user with low vision). Moreover, there are appendices detailing product, platform, and vendor contact information for more than two hundred products, arranged by type of disability: visual, hearing, speech, motor, and learning. The only outdated information was found for Productivity Works (now isSound), which discontinued the selling, enhancing, and supporting of its talking browser, pwWebSpeak, on January 1, 2001. The appendices also include a directory of national disability-related clearinghouses and organizations. The directory is followed by a list of toll-free telephone hotlines of national organizations concerned with disability and children's issues, appendices summarizing key provisions of adaptive technology and disability rights laws, and a list of RESNA Technology Assistance Project state contacts. The volume concludes with an eight-page subject index. Because the four-page table of contents provides a detailed outline of each chapter, the index is useful, but not essential as a finding tool.

Much of the information covered by Lazzaro is similarly treated in *Computer and Web Resources for People with Disabilities*, 3rd ed. (The Alliance for Technology Access, 2000). With recent mergers and acquisitions among adaptive technology vendors, Lazzaro's book is more up-to-date than the ATA volume. On the other hand, the ATA work provides a quick and uniform overview of a particular adaptive technology, what it is used for, its potential users, which features to consider, and the costs. *Adaptive Technologies for Learning & Work Environments* also complements Barbara Mates's *Adaptive Technology for the Internet*, which is aimed primarily at librarians. Lazzaro's work is

more current than Mates's with respect to adaptive technology and does not suffer from the high incidence of inaccurate URLs that is a problem in the Mates volume.

Written in nontechnical language for people with disabilities, *Adaptive Technologies for Learning & Work Environments* is also a resource for employers, educators, service providers, and the families of those individuals. With ALA's recent passage of the Library Services for People with Disabilities Policy and its Century Scholarship (funding services or accommodation for a library school student with disabilities admitted to an ALA-accredited library school), this is also a recommended read for librarians and library school faculty. Libraries with Lazzaro's first edition will want to replace it with this one. Recommended for all types of libraries. Where appropriate, libraries may want to consider the cross-platform CD-ROM version of the book, which makes the text accessible in HTML to users with disabilities.—*J. Christina Smith, Boston University.*

Tolzmann, Don Heinrich, Alfred Hessel, and Reuben Peiss. *The Memory of Mankind: The Story of Libraries Since the Dawn of History.* New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Pr., 2001. 188p. \$39.95 (ISBN 1584560495). LC 00-68213.

Imagine a neatly designed Bauhaus building that, having survived the war, is forced to accommodate an unanticipated extension in 1950 and a whole new wing in 2001. The result is a pastiche of styles and functions. If you live in an "historic" house that has been adapted to different iterations of modernity, you know what I mean. Entering the present book is not unlike walking through a piece of historic architecture that has not been well served by a succession of well-meaning owners.

In 1925, Alfred Hessel, a professor at the University of Göttingen, published *Geschichte der Bibliotheken*, a short survey (*Überblick*) of libraries from ancient Alexandria to the early twentieth century. In

1950, Reuben Peiss translated Hessel's survey into English—*A History of Libraries* (Washington D.C.: Scarecrow Press, 1950)—and added material that would bring the volume “more nearly up-to-date.” Peiss tells us that he translated Hessel because in the late 1940s, there was “no adequate short history of libraries in English.” Peiss's volume was nothing, if not humble. Where the original came with a suite of plates illustrating various libraries, Peiss's *History* seems to have been reproduced from typescript on mediocre paper and contains no illustrations. Now comes the present volume: the same core text, Peiss's additions, plus a new chapter by Don Heinrich Tolzmann further updating the text, a handsome dust wrapper, many illustrations, and a new title that keys on the current vogue for “memory.” Although the title, Tolzmann notes, is from Goethe, that does not make it true or helpful. Peiss was wise to stick with the original. Whatever else libraries are, they are not “the memory of mankind.” Libraries may make certain memories possible, but memory is a function of history and culture. It is constructed; it is not implicit in inventories of books and documents. The house receives an unnecessary face-lift.

When Peiss set out to translate Hessel, the history of libraries was, to say the least, an undercultivated area. When Tolzmann and Oak Knoll Press returned to Hessel/Peiss, the same could not be said. For the past two decades, library history has ridden the crest of the history of the book wave and come into its own. Tolzmann is oblique about why he thought a new version of the work was needed, though the project seems to have grown out of a course he taught or teaches in the University of Kentucky School of Library and Information Science. However, the book that Oak Knoll has brought out does not seem aimed at library school students but, rather, at a more general public of collectors and the curious. Nonetheless, it is fair to ask, Who is the audience here?

Although the title, *The Memory of Man-*

kind, promises the world, the book has little to do with “mankind.” Rather, its focus is Europe and the Western tradition. Hessel was clear on that point. In a short preface, he acknowledged that he would cover only libraries in the European tradition, leaving those of India and East Asia for others. Although Peiss and Tolzmann gesture to the wider world, their interests are clearly closer to home. Moreover, Hessel's book is especially—and understandably—concerned with libraries in Central Europe. As such, it is an odd candidate for reissuing in English in the early twenty-first century. There is a large cultural gap between the world for which Hessel wrote and the contemporary scene. Hessel could make assumptions about his audience that Tolzmann cannot. He could assume that his reader knew about the likes of Mabillon, Montfaucon, Muratori, and Magliabechi. He could assume that his catalog of princes and libraries in Central Europe was part of the *Bildung* of his audience. But Tolzmann should not. Hessel could dispense with footnotes because he was only writing an *Überblick*. *The Memory of Mankind* would have benefited not only from footnotes, but also from appendices that would help bridge the gap between Germany in 1925 and North America circa 2000.

Tolzmann's chief contribution to this version of Hessel is a concluding chapter, “Into the Information Age.” Despite the title, however, it is concerned largely with routine administrative issues, statistics, and consortial groups. When Tolzmann does address the digital library, he does so with a comfortable complaisance: “although the basic function of libraries will, hence, continue to remain the same [sic], how it [sic] goes about fulfilling that task will evolve.” Perhaps, but not very useful as a perspective.

I find *The Memory of Mankind* a strange publishing project. Not only do the three authors have their own styles and interests, but they are separated by historical and cultural formations as well. It is not clear what prompted Oak Knoll to take

on this project. It has done such fine work previously resurrecting titles that deserve new life that I am puzzled by their judgment in this case. Better that Tolzmann had begun *ab ovo* and written his own history of libraries, one that had the freedom and space to adapt old stories to new purposes. As it stands, however, this is a book that will probably satisfy neither the scholar, nor the librarian, nor the collector.—*Michael Ryan, University of Pennsylvania.*

Weller, Ann C. *Editorial Peer Review: Its Strengths and Weaknesses.* Medford, N.J.: Information Today (ASIST Monograph Series), 2001. 342p. \$35.60 (members); \$44.50 (nonmembers) (ISBN 1573871001). LC 00-47204.

The process of refereeing articles submitted for publication to scholarly and scientific journals is of central concern in academe and the professions. The decision to publish or not to publish is one on which sciences advance, the orderly progress of knowledge is achieved, and individual careers depend. It is a process through which, presumably, all new contributions are validated by the judgments of authors' and researchers' professional peers and deemed fit to join the knowledge base of the discipline.

Attention has been given to this phenomenon only during the past few decades. Prior to the 1960s, there was virtually no interest in the phenomenon, at least as a *researchable* topic in itself. Indeed, it is questionable that there were enough problems in the process to raise questions of its legitimacy, its pervasiveness, or its ultimate impact in the scholarly community prior to the expansion of research, of the number of research journals, and of the general level of interest in the equity of access to publishing outlets prior to the 1960s. Although it was not unknown for editors of scholarly and research journals to send manuscripts out to be evaluated by experts not immediately associated with the journals, it was not a common practice in many areas until well after World War Two and even into the 1970s

in some disciplines.

The book at hand is not a piece of original research or the result of an independent investigation. The author's purpose is much more modest. Her avowed intent has been simply "to conduct a systematic review of published studies on the editorial peer review process" from the earliest studies she could identify through her closing date of 1997. Weller presents here a highly structured approach to the organization of the reviews, beginning each chapter with an overview of the issues involved. She posits an explicit set of questions to be answered and a set of inclusion criteria for the research reports included in each section before describing those articles that address her questions and meet her criteria. Each chapter concludes with a general assessment of the research in the area treated in it and recommendations for further research. Most of these suggest more work along the same line and, for the most part, are directed toward practical ends—to improve the editorial review process. It is a practical, instrumental approach.

The array of concerns this book addresses extends much further than the simple practicality this description might suggest. Enough research has been conducted and published over the past four decades to produce a respectable showing, and she touches on every conceivable aspect of the issues involved in the process. After a general introduction to the problem, she considers studies of rejected manuscripts, the composition of editorial review boards, and the role of editors. She continues to evaluate research into the various roles of reviewers, their biases and agreements, and the use of specialized reviewers of statistical elements of research. She concludes the book with a chapter on the role of referees in the electronic environment and a final short chapter of general recommendations and observations on the editorial review process.

Through it all, she maintains a remarkably objective and descriptive tone, which, at times, is leavened with observations on the limitations and fallacies