

By way of conclusion, it seemed only appropriate to check WorldCat to look at the subject headings assigned to this work. A title search (done on August 9, 2002) retrieved five records, two for the book and three for the preceding dissertation. The record for the book in hand (OCLC: 48588266) had two subjects: "Subject cataloging" and "Subject cataloging—United States—Case studies." A second record (OCLC: 50100464), which had an identical bibliographic description except for pagination being noted 192 (versus 173 for the copy in hand), gave the single subject: "Subject cataloging." The record for the printed version of the dissertation (OCLC: 42810541) had three subjects: "Subject cataloging," "Subject headings," and "Catalogers—United States—Attitudes." The final records were for microform versions of the dissertation. The records for both the microfilm (OCLC:44492710) and the microfiche (OCLC: 44161585) gave the two identical headings: "Subject cataloging" and "Subject headings." The subjects given all seem appropriate, even if they are not entirely consistent. This reviewer would suggest adding another subject heading to bring out the cognitive aspects of the study. But that's just a thought.—*James W. Williams, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign.*

Warner, Julian. *Information, Knowledge, Text.* Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2001. 150p. alk. paper, \$49.50 (ISBN: 081083989X). LC: 00-067055.

Index to advertisers

ACRL	133
Annual Reviews	110
AIAA	99
Archival Products	162
Biosis	100
CHOICE	123
Haworth Press	cover 2
Library Technologies	103
R.R. Bowker	cover 3
ScienceDirect	cover 4

How did humans make their way from an oral tradition in Homeric or pre-Homeric times to the language of computer programs today? That is exactly the question that Julian Warner addresses in his 2001 book, *Information, Knowledge, Text*. On the faculty of the School of Management and Economics, The Queen's University of Belfast, Warner may seem an unlikely candidate to find his way to a topic steeped in the academic study of information but, in fact, he has written extensively in this area. *Library Literature and Information Science* lists forty-two citations for his work, including many book reviews of related studies. His approach is thorough, academic, credible, and quite interesting. The bibliography at the back of the book is extensive and wide-ranging. The chapters have, as Warner states in the preface, all "previously undergone editorial and ... full peer review as either journal articles or conference presentations." Warner made appropriate revisions to the original articles to "avoid repetition and increase coherence." He has looked well after his new readers, as the chapters do provide a coherent collection. Regarding repetition, however, this reader could have done with fewer references to Bacon's famous statement, "Writing [maketh] an exact man." The book finishes with republished reviews written by Warner of books that allow him to continue his exploration of the symbology and significance of writing. There is no index included at the back of this book, an omission this reviewer found unfortunate.

Taken individually, the chapters stand on their own. In the first chapter, "Studying Writing," a careful analysis of Roy Harris's *The Origin of Writing* (1986) and *Signs of Writing* (1995), Warner begins to persuade the reader that the route from spoken to written communication was sure and inexorable. The chapters that follow build on exactly this argument. The semiotic approach to language and its relationship to signs throughout human history is persuasive, if not always easy. By the third chapter, "Not the Exact Words...: Writing, Computing, and Exactness," Warner has

the reader prepared to see the evolution of language from pictograph to the binary code of computer programming. As he moves through the history of language, the development of writing, and the need to replicate the written word, eventually Warner brings the reader to copyright issues. The path is obvious: As writing got to be sophisticated and widespread, it became necessary to be able to make copies of the written word, through printing and so forth, and to transform the writing into other formats. In the fifth chapter, "Writing and Literary Work in Copyright: A Binational and Historical Analysis," Warner discusses telegraph codebooks that were assembled to ensure better accuracy in telegraphy, manuals of shorthand methods, and transcribed punched piano rolls. All were at the center of various copyright disputes, as the question was brought to judgment whether these works had literary and intellectual content, were infringements of ownership, and whether they were simply mechanical representations of random elements. To librarians, this may be the most fascinating chapter of Warner's book, as these questions bedevil the profession equally in the twenty-first century as in the nineteenth.

In summary, academic librarians should find this a fascinating, though sometimes difficult, study of the evolution of the written word and its meaning; the semiotic approach might sometimes confuse the reader, being more in the realm of "information science" than "library science." Students of information science should be enlightened and intrigued by it. Warner's book is to be recommended for the value it brings to the librarian's intellectual life.—*Tom Schneider, Harvard University Library.*

Weinberger, David. *Small Pieces Loosely Joined: A Unified Theory of the Web.* Cambridge, Mass.: Perseus, 2002. 223p. \$25 (ISBN 0738205435). LC 2002-102643.

Some years ago, Woody Allen told a story about a man who consulted a psychiatrist about a family member who was troubled by a disorder causing him to act like a

chicken. The psychiatrist said that without the patient present a diagnosis was difficult, but assuming that the behavior was not being feigned as a way of getting quick attention, it was clear that he needed to be hospitalized for observation. At this point, the man became very worried and replied that they could not allow the man who thought he was a chicken to be hospitalized because the family desperately needed the eggs. Not to editorialize excessively and ruin the joke, one of its more interesting points is that aberrations are often partly shared by those who are able to recognize the more obvious symptoms they cause in others. If there ever was one, this was a case for family therapy. Let me hasten to point out that David Weinberger, author of *Small Pieces Loosely Joined: A Unified Theory of the Web*, does not appear in any sense to be mentally ill. A former vice-president of strategic marketing at a software company, he is more likely to be described as refreshingly eccentric, as marketing people often are. Nonetheless, reading his book suggests that he shares a certain kind of impairment with the many who are transported and transfixed by the coming of new technologies—in this case, the Internet and the World Wide Web.

More recently, a significant publishing event helps to frame what is going on in books such as *Small Pieces Loosely Joined* because it helps us to recognize the shared impairment. David Brooks, a founding editor of *The Weekly Standard*, noted a couple of years ago that some big changes have occurred in American culture in the past few decades. One of these changes—the one that helps us here—is the blurring of an earlier distinction between businessmen and intellectuals. Just as intellectuals now, like businessmen, want to be rich, so businessmen want very much to intellectually justify their activities. (See *Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There* [New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000]). Having made oceans of money, the next step in the process is the discovery that the businessman