



Book Reviews

No stress working in public libraries?

River Bend revisited: the problem patron in the library by Bruce Shuman. Phoenix, Arizona Oryx, 1984. 186pp. US\$42.50. ISBN 0 89774 1250. Supplied by James Bennett Pty Ltd.

What do you do when

- phantom spray-painters are adorning the library's exterior at night?
- a homeless transient finds the library useful as a dining hall on rainy days?
- creationists protest at the library's perceived bias in favour of evolutionist arguments?

These situations are but three of the forty outlined in Shuman's work on handling 'problem' clients.

River Bend revisited is a collection of (US oriented) 'problem situations' which may be experienced in public library services. The purpose of the book is to provide examples of situations with which library staff members have to cope. As Joyce Elliot from the Los Angeles Public Library states in her foreword: 'librarians by nature tend to be unprepared to cope with the problem patron, but they are thrust into these situations almost daily' (p xii).

The first fifteen pages describe the city of River Bend ('at the southern end of a mid-western state') and its public library services. An extract from the latter may sound somewhat familiar: 'The library has survived attempts to cut into acquisitions, curtail its hours, reduce its staff — Bloody but relatively uninjured, the library continues to serve the community . . .' (p xxiii).

The 'problem situations' are described clearly and simply with relatively little hysteria. Each is followed by a number of questions for discussion and an annotated list of resources (usually 3 or 4 pertinent articles or reports).

The book does not provide answers outlining the 'correct' action to be taken. It is meant to be used for inservice training sessions, for workshops for public employees, and for library and information service school students. Shuman's preface describes ways in which the book can be used. Perhaps the most pertinent suggestion is that the situations can be used to provide a basis for the preparation of policies and procedure manuals.

The US orientation is rather pervasive in this type of work. When reading some of the situations, one can't but help feel that, at present, Australians are much less litigious than US public library service users. Perhaps at present, we are just under-prepared.

River Bend revisited could be a useful resource for public library service staff who cannot compile their own casebook of 'problem clients'. I am thinking of using it as pre-reading for prospective students who think a career in public libraries will take the stress out of life!

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i ————— RMIT

A commendably people-oriented perspective

Policy and planning guidelines for public libraries/Library Association of Australia. Sydney: Library Association of Australia. 1984. 16pp. ISBN 0 86804 019 3. \$3.50, \$2.95 LAA members.

When I set out to review this publication I decided to take a look at its predecessor, the LAA's *Interim minimum standards for public libraries* (LAA 1972) and the comments that had greeted its arrival. John Stringleman, writing in the *Australian Library Journal* of December 1972 concluded a favourable review with the hope that future revisions of the standards might include 'more detailed recommendations in specific areas such as reader, staff and shelving space.'

However the LAA, guided by the views of the profession at large, decided that its first priority for the eighties should not be the development of up-dated 'input standards'. Rather, recognising that some states have their own standards and that there now exist standards for particular special types of public library work, eg bookmobile service and service in multicultural communities, the Association has decided — quite properly, in my opinion — to support the production of a public library planning document which emphasises broad principles for appropriate and professional service in tune with the needs and aspirations of communities served. As stated in the Background section of the document, 'the growing awareness of differences in the needs of local communities together with changes in the nature of library materials, services and procedures, resulted in a shift in emphasis from input standards to output (qualitative) measures.'

So, fourteen years after the *Interim standards*, we now have, not revised standards but policy and planning guidelines. There are three parts to the document: a statement on the role of the public library; a declaration of ten basic policy guidelines, and the planning guidelines, which make up the bulk of the work.

In the 1972 *Standards*, the Unesco Public Library Manifesto was quoted. The *Guidelines* does not quote Unesco, but provides a similarly missionary style of statement emphasising the public library's unique nature as the only library to which all people have access, and its place as a member of a network of interdependent library services throughout the country. Whilst the *Guidelines* does highlight most of the important roles and responsibilities outlined by Unesco, it leaves out Unesco's emphasis on the library's responsibility to actively focus attention on issues in a variety of ways. (It is interesting in this regard that whereas the 1972 *Standards* mentioned the responsibility of the public library to actively foster certain appropriate cultural activities if they were not provided, the *Guidelines* implies a more passive role of support for the endeavours of other agencies, in addition to 'standard' sorts of library promotion.)

The ten policy guidelines appear to codify

the broad arguments of the section on the public library's role. Several of these were also emphasised in the 1972 *Standards*, eg the need for goals and objectives and for clear legislative provision for public library services. An important difference is the *Guidelines'* statement that the costs of public library service should be shared by the federal government, rather than merely state and local governments. It is appropriate that policy guideline no. 1 should affirm Association policy on free library services, but I wonder why it does not include the (now controversial) idea contained in the LAA's Statement on Free Library Service to All, viz opposition to fees regardless of whether service 'entails access to machine readable data bases or other forms of technology'. An interesting omission.

Policy 10 is a curious statement: 'the implications of information technologies should be included in the planning, development and provision of public library services.' Just what this might mean in practice is nowhere spelled out, though in the final section, Planning Guidelines, brief reference is made to the need to provide 'computer access' which is seen in terms of provision of online searching facilities. Other things such as the potential of libraries to provide the means whereby people might become computer literate — a potential already being successfully exploited in many libraries — are not canvassed, which seems a pity.

The bulk of the document is made up of actual planning guidelines, under the headings Planning and Evaluation; Users; Services; Resources; Physical facilities; Staffing and Promotion of Services. It is very noticeable that the coverage given to certain issues directly reflects the presence on the planning team of people with known involvement in those issues; we get excellent coverage of service to Aboriginal and ethnic communities and the disabled as a result and this is all very well and good.

But I wish there had been someone in the group equally keen to wave a banner for the public library's role in supporting intellectual freedom. This is an issue which hardly gets a guernsey in this volume, except indirectly. I would have expected a policy and planning document to be very clear as to libraries' roles in assisting in the maintenance and development of intellectual freedom and to provide some practical assistance for embattled librarians. For example, under the heading Resources I would have expected to see not only the recommendation that libraries have written selection policies, but that such policies ought to include the LAA Statement on Freedom to Read as a matter of course. Similarly, under Promotion of Services, a useful addition would have been some mention of the need to build political support within the community, not just to assist in library promotion, but in the promotion of the values which underlie library provision in a democratic society. The 1972 *Standards* seemed to have more to say in the area of values, and I hope people will still refer to that earlier document.

It used to be said of *Standards* that they reflect the best available consensus regarding practice. It seems the *Guidelines* could be

similarly described. The appearance of this document is a welcome event indeed, for it will be of considerable benefit in helping librarians design appropriate and relevant services in a time of instability and rapid change. It brings together the fruit of over ten years of reform and experiment in many aspects of Australian public librarianship — in materials, services, legislation, governance and so forth — and presents us with a commendably people-oriented perspective on the whole field. That it achieves what it does is largely due to the professionalism and energy of Gael Fraser, the Convenor, and of the impressive team of public and state library personnel who produced the document.

A final thought: even if all this discussion of policy leaves you unmoved, I urge you to buy the *Guidelines* for Bruce Petty's cartoons. They're absolutely gorgeous and not to be missed!

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Subscribe to this series

Freedom of information in Australia/Bruce Furmedge. (RMIT Department of Librarianship Bibliographic Study no 1) Melbourne: RMIT 1984. ISBN 0 86444 412 5. ISSN 0814 6543.

When I was a child the local member of State parliament was known to his constituents as a most useful access point to government for unusual transactions where advice was needed. Those were less sophisticated times, and while people knew how to register births, deaths and marriages, the average worker probably had never paid tax or given much thought to the environment so there were few problems.

Today, in more sophisticated times, while the MP can be an invaluable ally in approaching government, citizens who know something about the way the bureaucracy works are more likely to be able to make the system work. Government publications are one source of information about this, another is the departments themselves.

Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons very few local public libraries have developed good collections of government publications, nor for the most part do they spring immediately to the mind of the public as places at which it is possible to find out what government department is responsible for a certain activity. Nor are they commonly thought of as a source of information on how to get access to departmental files. While public librarians in Victoria have shown an active interest in this, it is not a commonly available service throughout Australia given that Commonwealth legislation has been in force for some years now.

It is clear, however, that there is a need for such a service in the community as evidenced by the subject matter in the proliferating hotline columns in the press and the many talk back programs on the air. Popular as these are, there is no way that they can deal with the range and number of enquiries by members of the community for the press is restricted as to the number of topics dealt with and there is a limit to the number of people able to telephone in the relatively few hours of air-time available.

Public libraries are available in many localities and many of them are staffed by those who could gain competence to act as advisers or referral agents to assist citizens who need published or unpublished government information. However, in my view, they will find this publication of little assistance. It was a student exercise originally but the present

publication was completed and supplemented last year. As such it is useful provided its limitations are kept in mind. It is in two sections, namely a guide to the literature and bibliography.

In the author's words: 'It is intended for all those who are interested in freedom of information on a professional or personal level as an aid in finding their way through the literature of the subject.' Certainly it will be useful as a starting point for professionals interested in the Freedom of Information debate but apart from two pages which deal with 'explanatory publications' it will prove disappointing to those who want to get on with the job.

I am afraid that it fails in its second objective, also which is stated as to 'serve as a starting point for members of the public who wish to make requests for information under the provisions of the Acts', and how to do this. The style of presentation and the content leave a great deal to be desired.

I have been reluctant to criticise this small work for I welcome it for what it is, a useful bibliography on the Freedom of Information debate and the implementation of the concept here. As such libraries should buy it, better still subscribe to this new series.

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Unique, invaluable — and prompt too

Directory of Australian multicultural films and videos/comp Alleyn Best. Melbourne: Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs. 1985. 138pp. A\$5.00. ISBN 0 949890 30 8.

The compiler of this directory has built upon research carried out for the successful documentary series screened on the 0/28 Network in 1984 under the title 'The Migrant Experience'. Information produced for that series, which was jointly made by AIMA and Film Australia, has been augmented by Alleyn Best to produce a source document for ethnic and other community groups, teachers and students, librarians, film-makers and researchers.

The scope of the work is described as 'films and videos produced in Australia whose content in full or in part concerns migration, migrant and ethnic issues and/or multiculturalism in Australia' (p5), excluding only the lifestyles of Aboriginal groups and the field of ethnic arts and crafts. The scope of the material included in the directory is further limited by the application of other criteria, not stated, and inevitably so. Since the experience of ethnic diversity and migration now permeates Australian life so thoroughly, and since there is now a very large number of individuals and organisations producing video material, the volume of material on film dealing at least 'in part' with the subjects within the ostensible range of the directory must be vast. For example, very little material dealing with Australia's substantial Irish heritage is included.

The main part of the directory is a listing of documentaries and feature films, 294 in all. Most entries provide information about production, date, format, length and availability, with annotations describing the content of the film. For each location, information is provided about whether the film is lent free, hired, or viewable only by arrangement at source. Almost all of the material listed is available for loan, either from the National Film Lending Collection or at various locations in state capitals. There is a very thorough listing of locations. The remaining sections provide brief listings of newsreel and television items spanning the period 1933 to 1978, together with

material deposited with the National Film and Sound Archives in Canberra by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in 1982.

The material included in the directory has generally not been viewed by the compiler, with most of the information having been compiled from catalogues. This is reflected in a lack of information for some entries. The directory serves a diverse clientele and provides a mixture of archival and current material. However, despite its eclectic and unstated selection criteria, the directory is unique and invaluable, and within the limits of time and resources available, well-produced, usable and published with commendable promptness.

For libraries it has several purposes. Only a limited number of listed films are available in video format for sale, while only 15 entries in the main listing are for non-English language titles. However, for those libraries with active multicultural programmes the directory brings together most of the readily obtainable relevant material. It is to be hoped that its publication will stimulate public, school and other libraries to greater activity in this area.

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Mission accomplished but with UK bias

Manual of Business Library Practice/ed Malcolm J. Campbell. London: Clive Bingley. 2nd edition. 1985. 238pp. £14.75. ISBN 0 85157 360 6. Supplied by James Bennetts.

Edited by the City Business Librarian of London, this book is a revision of the 1975 edition and is composed of thirteen chapters with most of them being rewritten by the original authors. A new chapter on information technology is the major addition. Short biographies on each author are included.

The primary purpose of the book is to describe and detail the different facets of business librarianship for the student or the practising librarian coming into this area. In general, this has been achieved. However, there is a definite UK bias (BRASTACS = Bradford) and this I find is the major weakness in regard to Australian usage as much of the book revolves around various sources of information available. The author also admits to an emphasis on the public library sector. This doesn't present any problems as the basic thoughts expressed are applicable to any library setting.

The first four chapters discuss the organization and administration of business information, including its place in the twentieth century, such as the development of trade literature, government publications and computer based material. This is not a 'how to' book, but many ideas and suggestions for acquisition, promotion and dissemination of information are discussed with application left to each individual situation. One chapter deals exclusively with company libraries and their relation to company goals and needs. Similar chapters, of a high standard, can also be found in *The Basic Business Library: Core Resources*, edited by Bernard S. Schlessinger.

The next six chapters are a review of business related literature. These are written in a bibliographic essay format, but are generally effective only if UK related material is needed. An Australian source similar in design is *A Guide to Sources of Information on Australian Business* by Joy Sheehan. *The Basic Business Library: Core Resources* (US bias) contains descriptive listings which in the periodical area are superior to the Campbell

book which merely lists titles.

The last section of this book covers special services of business libraries (concise current awareness bulletins to management), external sources of information, and the new section on information technology. This last chapter I found to be good in its overview of 'online' issues and includes an international wide list of databases.

Closing out the book is a list of references and further reading, an appendix of database hosts and a detailed index. The list of references is old. Many date from the mid to late 1970s and seem dated when compared to *The Basic Business Library: Core Resources* list that goes almost up to the date of publication (1983).

Bill Hood

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Information industry is growing up

Information Consultants, Freelancers and Brokers Directory, 1985. Edited by Enid Hsieh, Margaret Wanklyn, Jennifer Goddard. Melbourne, Information Management & Consulting Association. \$20.00. 57 pp. ISBN 0 9591200 17.

The Information Management and Consulting Group formed in 1982 became the Information Management and Consulting Association (IMCA) in 1984. The objectives of IMCA are set out as: supporting independent professionals involved in information work on consulting or contract terms; providing a forum for information exchange; coordinating interaction and sharing of skills; providing a focus for communication and a referral point to and from professionals; setting standards of conduct for independent information professions.

Another objective not spelled out but implicit in the publication of a Directory of information consultants, freelancers and brokers, is to encourage such people and the use of their services. Inclusion of an entry is not dependent on IMCA membership and no responsibility is accepted by IMCA editors for those listed. Thus IMCA is not prepared to guarantee the quality of the consultants even though they are included in the Directory.

The first Directory appeared in 1984 and a measure of its success is the prompt appearance of a second Directory in 1985. The Directory consists of an alphabetical listing by business name with three indexes: geographical (by State within Australia); key personnel; and subject. The subject headings were selected by entrants from a brief list, with an option to add three further subjects or qualifiers. Each entry under business name provides address, telephone number(s), a paragraph giving a brief description of services offered, experience or any other relevant matters. A second paragraph lists the key personnel and their qualifications. The more adventurous add a black and white photograph of themselves: others an attractive line graphic.

The overall appearance is of plenty of white space which makes the text easy to read. The original pages from which the Directory is reproduced are created by word-processing equipment with lines right justified. More variety in type-face and the use of bold for emphasis rather than repeated underlinings, would improve the overall quality of the Directory's appearance. This will no doubt come about as the publication establishes its market and increases its size.

The geographic and personnel indexes are useful adjuncts to the main text. Consultants are listed for each state except Tasmania. Their number, their wide geographic distribution and the range of specialties covered is

indicative of the growing complexity of managing information at every level. The arrival of such a publication on the publishing scene is a sign of maturity of the information industry and a recognition of the wide skills now available within the library community. At \$20.00 I would think most reference librarians would be pleased to add the Directory to their collection.

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An innocent pleasure replaces the Golden Age

International study of copyright of bibliographic records in machine-readable form; report prepared for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions /by Dennis D. McDonald, Eleanor J. Rodger, Jeffrey L. Squires. Muenchen: K.G. Saur. 1983. 149pp. (IFLA Publications 27) ISBN 3-598-20393-4.

Over the years few statements from library literature have been quoted more frequently than Charles Ami Cutter's remark, that with the establishment of the LC card distribution service the 'golden age of cataloguing' was over. In fact it was not until some 70 years later that his fears (hopes?) were realised, when the initiative taken by the Library of Congress to distribute national cataloguing information in machine-readable form began to be seriously followed by national libraries in other countries. At the same time large computer-based cataloguing utilities were created to make these data available online to cataloguers in libraries, large and small throughout the world.

However, with these developments the question of ownership and copyright in the machine-readable data produced by the national agencies has become an issue. This publication which reports on a study of some of the issues, commissioned by IFLA and undertaken by King Research in the USA, makes interesting and timely reading.

The study concentrates on the implications for controlling the international exchange of bibliographic agencies, within the context of existing copyright law. It does not address, other than by implication, the issues associated with third party distribution ('re-use of records') within countries. It also does not address the exchange of data other than library cataloguing (MARC) data, ie it does not deal, except in passing, with the distribution of software to process these data or with the distribution of data generated by the abstracting and indexing services in the private and public sectors.

The report concludes that copyright provides no protection for individual records within bibliographic data collections; the copyrightable element is the 'structural relationship or systematization, of the collection of individual records'. However, the study also concludes that the information in bibliographic data bases is proprietary in the sense that the national agencies have physical possession of the data bases they have individually developed and because of this they are in a position to bargain about the terms on which they will make the records available to others.

The authors believe that such lawful possession of the physical medium is sufficient control to enable agencies to enter into bilateral exchange agreements and to discontinue the relationships if the other parties refuse to comply with their responsibilities. 'Such contractual arrangement, based purely on the agreement of parties acting in good faith to set the terms on which they will deal with each

other, may be appropriate to create adequate legal relationships among national agency bibliographic data base publishers, contributors and users, both now and in the foreseeable future.'

The study reports in detail on the results of a survey conducted in 1981 of 37 national bibliographic agencies, of which 21 responded. Unfortunately the National Library of Australia was not one of the respondents. Nevertheless there is much useful and interesting information here about the way in which various countries have approached the issues of exchange and distribution of machine-readable records. Those who have been looking for authoritative confirmation of the fact that there is no copyright in the LC MARC tapes will find such confirmation in this book (page 33).

As we would expect from a prestigious organisation like King Research, this is a well-written, carefully documented study of what is a potentially difficult and for many no doubt rather esoteric subject. But those interested in international librarianship or perhaps merely in search of another 'innocent pleasure' to replace Cutter's 'lost art' will derive some enjoyment from reading this articulate report and pondering the issues that it raises.

Hans W. Groenewegen

CAVAL Limited

Coming to grips with security

Security for Libraries: People, Buildings, Collections / ed. Marvin Brand. Chicago: American Library Association. 1984. 120pp. US\$15.60 ISBN 0-8389-0409-Z

As the editor explains in his brief preface, and as Thomas Shaughnessy demonstrates in the first article, 'Security: past, present and future', the past 10-20 years have seen a steady increase in the problems of maintaining library security, and a consequent increase in interest in the topic by library managers and staff. The growing concern is reflected in a 385% increase in the number of articles dealing with the topic in the 60s (compared with the 50s), and a further 156% increase in the 70s. This slim volume was therefore suggested by the American Library Association Books and Pamphlets staff to meet the need (and catch the market).

While we may feel that our own environment is not quite so turbulent as that of America, it is nonetheless obvious, if only from the recent fires in NSW public libraries, that our collections are increasingly at risk and that we cannot afford to be blasé about the security of our buildings, collections, users, or staff. I therefore approached the book with considerable interest, but found that while it was quite useful in some respects it was also both patchy and repetitious. It consists of a collection of articles which give the impression of being a collection of seminar papers (from a seminar in which a number of the speakers traversed the same ground), rather than being systematically planned and edited to address a series of problems comprehensively but briefly.

Shaughnessy's article documents the growing concern, then lists the various types of problems which may arise and the various techniques which have been developed for dealing with them. He advocates the development of a security plan and provides a checklist for a security survey.

Wilbur B. Crimmin's 'Institutional, Personal, Collection and Building Security Concerns' covers much the same ground in setting out the problems and addressing the remedies, although different emphases are given (for example, doors receive a page treatment

along the lines '3 hinges per door, with concealed hinge screws 2 or 3 inches long and with hinge pins on the inside of the door, where possible . . .' p39). Crimmin provides a Table of Contents for a Security Procedures Manual, which may well be useful, but which also overlaps with emergency Procedures manuals and Disaster Plans.

Janelle A. Paris, in 'Internal and External Responsibilities and Practices for Library Security', again sets out the various problems for school, university and public libraries in turn — listing some of the solutions which have been tried. Her emphasis is on the selection of guards: police officer, in-house guard or contract guard services. This same question, which is of limited interest to Australian libraries, was also addressed by the two previous articles. Nevertheless the outline provided of an inservice training program is potentially useful.

Since the fourth article by Barbara Bintliff and Al Coco deals with the legal aspects of library security any reader without a good grasp of the differences between the Australian and American legal systems (myself included) will find this of little value. It does, however, raise the questions to which answers should be sought from a lawyer, and from an insurance agent.

The final contribution to the book is a selected bibliography of readings under the headings Archives and Special Collections, Computers, Detection Systems, Disasters, Fire, Insurance, Law, Security, Theft and Mutilation: handy but soon dated.

My reaction to the book was mixed. It serves to raise awareness of the problems, but anyone seriously wishing to deal with the problems would probably do equally well to refer to the literature in the bibliography which in turn could be identified by a database search or a quick skim of *Library Literature*.

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Good editing would help

Information Comes of Age/Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Institute of Information Scientists, Canterbury, July 1984. (London) IIS/Rossendale, 1984 126p, (£15) ISBN 0 946138 05 2.

Of the making of conferences and their proceedings there seems no end. So what are we to make of this annual gabfest of the IIS — indeed what do we expect? Reports of research in progress or completed? New perceptions of librarianship/information science? If we find proceedings of our conferences disappointing it is a reflection on our discipline.

It is unlikely that any of these papers will be referred to by future students or researchers. This is not to say that they are not of some interest. It is often said the value of conferences is the interchange taking place between sessions and at the pub. Reading these papers is rather like listening in to such discussions. The result is however that editing would have greatly benefited the reader.

Sir Fred Hoyle in the keynote address recalls how in 1945 a group of future heavies including himself, reviewing the first information on the wartime developments of computers, concluded that digital computers had no future as scientific instruments. The conference year was 1984 and so inevitably there are shades of Orwell. Duncan Campbell of the New Statesman is of particular interest and relevance in the current Australian debate on a national ID card whilst Harry Collier on whether politicians are against the free

flow of information and Peter Heims on industrial espionage provoke thoughts on the Information Society that as librarians we do not often consider.

The second half of the proceedings surveys Tools of the Trade in a series of papers which, whilst they may tell little new to those who follow closely the front-edge of development, are nevertheless useful survey reminders of where things are at in various areas — Michael Aldrich on Rediffusion on Cable TV and Britain's progress towards a cabled society (while Australia appears to have fallen into a black hole!) — Brian Blunden of PIRA on developments in printing and electronic publishing, reminds us of the ferment of change which willy-nilly is going to affect the products with which we all spend our lives — Roger Needham, Cambridge mathematics professor with almost thirty years background in computing, has some useful cautions on fifth generation computing.

In summary, most of these papers if edited for reading rather than listening, would be welcome contributions in our professional journal. As a compendium they will not have a long life as a research source. As a useful read today they are well worth our attention.

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A limited view, but with relevance

Issues in acquisitions: programs & evaluation/ed. Sue H. Lee. Ann Arbor: Pierian Press. 1984. 133 pp. US\$24.00. ISBN 0 87650 188 9. (Library Management Series no. 8.)

This slim volume emanates from a conference of the same title held in Oklahoma City in March 1984 and attended by seventy-five librarians from Canada and the US. The title implies a general review of the issues currently facing acquisitions librarians. Such is not the case: five papers are concerned with approval plans, one with vendor performance and one with the selection of an automated acquisitions system. However, despite this limited view of acquisitions issues, and the totally American setting, the issues raised are of relevance to Australian librarians, particularly those concerned with collection development. The major topic of the book is the evaluation of approval plans in academic libraries and is a timely sequel to the last international conference on approval plans held in 1979 and an Australian seminar on that topic held in 1981. Speakers at both of these meetings had stressed the need for evaluation of approval plans but had not explored any methodology which could be generally applied.

In the 1960s Richard Abel had observed that in the United States 'book budgets were grow-

ing faster than personnel budgets; a core group of publishers produced the majority of scholarly titles; these titles were often not on library shelves until eighteen months or two years after publication; and computerization held a key to efficient collection building'. Hence the approval plan concept was developed and continued to flourish. Following the Abel bankruptcy in 1974 many libraries reviewed their approval plans, yet they continue to be a popular method of acquisition even if many have been changed and often pruned because of financial stringency or other circumstances.

The first paper, on evaluation of vendor performance for in-print monographs, reviews the guidelines which have been drafted by the Collection Management and Development Committee of the Resources and Technical Services Division of ALA. The five papers on evaluation of approval plans take varied approaches to the subject but there is repetition, particularly in the examination of the responsibilities of librarian and vendor, the importance of the profile and availability of a general collection policy, and the advantages and disadvantages of approval plans for collection development. The performance evaluation model described in the second paper could be applied in any library and reflect individual variations and circumstances.

Next, there is a case study of an evaluation of approval plans at Texas A&M University Library where 47% of all titles acquired arrive via approval plans. The librarian-faculty role in collection development using approval plans is described by the Acquisitions Librarian of Washington University. The final two papers on approval plans are presented by vendor representatives who emphasise the importance of goodwill, co-operation and communication between librarians and vendors, if approval plans are to achieve librarians' expectations. Vendors realise that they face pressures from developing library automation, and the future of approval plans is seen as being systems interface, online editing and online selection.

A most useful paper on the evaluation and selection of an automated acquisitions system is contributed by the Head of Acquisitions and Book Fund Accounting at the University of Michigan. Presented are comprehensive listings of factors to consider from the time of initial investigation, through identification of procedures to automate, preparation of specification, identification of possible sources, presentations and final selection of a system.

Each paper has its own bibliography (unfortunately with an incorrect citation of the 1979 international conference in the second paper) and the final section is devoted to a general bibliography on issues in acquisitions covering a wider range of issues than that of the conference papers.

Pam Glock
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Collection Management in Academic Libraries

'The papers are without exception, well written, carefully and selectively documented, and representative of the wide range of opinion of informed Australian librarians.' Mary Rose O'Connor, *Australasian College Libraries*, Vol 3, No 2, 1985.

'These papers are of a consistently high quality and their publication is timely. They are likely to find a receptive audience among academic librarians seeking to clarify the options available to them in collection management'. Karl G. Schmude, *InCite*, Vol 6, No 7, 1985.

Collection Management in Academic Libraries. Edited by Kathryn Crow, Philip Kent and Barbara Paton. Brisbane: University and College Libraries Section, LAA. 1984. 88pp. LAA members price \$12; non members \$18 plus \$1.50 for postage.

This publication is available from the LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007 or through the library suppliers Bennetts or Mannings.