Book Reviews

Interesting questions for further investigation

Young teenage reading habits: a study of the Bookmaster scheme/Jean Bird. London: British Library. 1982. 119pp. (British National Bibliography Research Report 9) Price unknown. ISBN 0 7123 3007 0.

The Westminster city librarian, in his foreword, describes the book as 'exemplary', which it is. As a research report it is a model of organisation and style. Better still, the author conveys the fascination with which she explores, like Gulliver in Lilliput, the world of the teenage reader. This is much more than 'an account of a survey . . .'.

The subject of the research, generally stated as 'young teenage reading habits', is, specifically, the Westminster junior libraries' summer reading scheme. These are schemes for holiday reading which require that a number of books be read, and in some cases reviewed, by the children. There are inducements and rewards, such as badges and certificates, and the library staff talk to every child about every book read.

The research project had two broad aims: first, to survey the children enrolled in the schemes and draw some general conclusions about teenagers' book preferences and library use; secondly to evaluate the reading schemes themselves.

The author is fulsome in her praise of the reading schemes, which promote enjoyment of reading and *keeping on* reading. They also benefit library staff, who learn a lot about their users. The aspect of the scheme best liked by users is that it provides something to do in the holidays.

On the general subject of book preferences and library use, the report is most interesting. In the process of presenting her findings, the author gives succinct and readable summaries of past research. To some extent the book will confirm what you know or suspect already — such as that boys tend to read non-fiction, and girls fiction; or that reading tends to decline after age 14. Then there is a wealth of new information, covering the preferences of teenagers for different types of books, the problems which they face in choosing a library book to read, and the strategies they use to overcome these problems.

One of the pleasures I found in reading this book is that it does raise interesting questions that deserve further investigation. For example, given that there is a self-imposed demarcation between girls' and boys' reading, is it possible to 'persuade' them to cross the boundaries? Is the girls' bias against non-fiction any cause for concern?

Anyone responsible for a childrens' library, school or public, and who is interested in the reading habits of teenagers, should find something of interest in this book. *Stephen Due*
i ——————— Colac Technical School

Relevant for medical librarians

Medical Reference Services Quarterly. New York: Haworth Press Vol. 1 — Spring 1982 — Quarterly. ISBN: 0276-3869. Price: US$80 per annum.

Practicality is the keynote of this new American journal for medical librarians. The first four issues of this quarterly publication reveal a wide range of practice-orientated articles emphasising on-line searching techniques in the medical databases, reference services to health professionals in the working situation, and recent experiments in medical special library organisation of particular interest to hospital librarians, eg Shultz, S.M. 'Hospital library reference: searching under constraints' (Vol 1, no 3 pp 53-60). Three regular columns feature interesting new pieces on on-line services, eg 'The reluctant on-line novice', 'Those pesky on-line statistics', user education, and a feedback column in addition to a book review section which includes material of interest to doctors as well as medical librarians.

In keeping with the announced scope of the journal, the Editorial Board and the authors of most articles are distinguished American practising medical librarians. The pronounced US emphasis limits the journal's value to Australian librarians and serves to underline the paucity of research into Australian medical library services.

The understandable emphasis on database searching results in several articles of practical value to medical librarians who, in the hospital situation at least, are most often contending with the myriad complexities of MEDLINE in isolation from professional guidance. Again, in Australia these articles are of limited help because they relate to US configurations of the system and unfortunately reflect an abominable technocratic style characteristic of many US librarianship journals, which can repel the potential reader as much as the prospect of a prolonged consultation with an on-line systems manual!

This journal can be recommended as one of the most relevant publications to the practical requirements of medical librarians yet produced.

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Bringing history to life in the primary school

On this day: a collection of everyday learning events and activities for the Media Centre, Library and Classroom, Elaine J. Haglund and Marcia L. Harris. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1983 470pp. US$27.50. ISBN 0 87287 845 5. Supplied by the James Bennett Group.

This book is divided into 6 major sections:

Part 1: Events and Activities. The major part of the book, this is a chronological listing of events for each day of the month Each month begins with the origin of the month's name, the astrological sign, the flower, and descriptions of month-long observances, special weeks and dates within the month. Each daily listing is followed by suggestions for presenting the information and cross-references to other sections.

Part 2: Extra-Know-How. This is a follow up, providing additional information and information sources for Biographical and re source data. In depth data detail is provided for a few selected entries in Events and Activities with a comprehensive address listing for follow up work.

Part 3: Task Cards. These offer a variety of activities and may be used separately o with Events and Activities.

Part 4: Offers a variety of worksheets and diagrams.

Part 5: Sample Packet-Student Folder Teachers and librarians can develop an individualised contract-based program, using student folders, in relationship to the main text.

Part 6: Appendices. These include a subject arrangement of people listed in the text as well as a bibliography of reference works There is also a detailed index.

According to the authors, the book was conceived primarily as an instructional tool for teachers and teacher librarians. However, it may be used effectively as a reference or resource text to be referred to daily weekly or monthly. The activities may be used as total class projects, for individual or small group work or as a source of ideas.

Teachers, librarians, recreation and community workers and trivia buffs will find this book useful and stimulating. It may be used as a reference tool or as a manual and no doubt it will also serve as a catalyst for theme work in various locations. Its main audience will probably include grades 3–, although the ideas could be adapted to a much wider range of students.

Since *On This Day* is designed primarily for America its main focus is on American history, so that some parts will not be so useful in Australia. Nevertheless, since much of American history has been world history much is relevant to all. It would be an easy matter for teachers to substitute Australian personalities and events in appropriate places. Certainly this is a book which help make history come alive.

S. James Heni
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A necessity for people working with disadvantaged groups

Australian Prison Librarianship, Neil Donahoo, Watsonia Victoria Library, Department of Community Welfare Services, 22 pp Gratis ISBN 0 7241 2188 9

This annotated bibliography is arranged chronologically and, within this, alphabetically by author. The work contains an introduction, author and subject indexes and fifty-one entries each with 50–100 words of information and comment.

Both published and unpublished items are listed and there have been some deliberate omissions; annual reports of state correctional and library authorities and Acts of Parliament and prisoners' writings on prison libraries have been excluded. Donahoo admits that lack of time and access to resources coupled with the fact that these items present considerable difficulty as a source of information were the main reasons. There is also an emphasis on Victorian material which reflects the sources available to the compiler.

The aim, he states, was to be comprehensive, then immediately admits that any such attempt must surely fail. However, he sees his work as, at least, a starting point and as a challenge to the reader to locate references the author has missed. Slim as it is this roneoed booklet is a necessity for anyone interested in library services not only to prisoners but also to disadvantaged or institutionalized groups as many of the references are of a more general nature and deal not merely with prison libraries. The annotations are excellent, being both descriptive and analytic.

They give information on how much space, or more usually how little, is devoted to prison libraries and an idea of how useful the item is, as well as specific page references and some comparative cross references. The publication is available free of charge while stocks last, from The Librarian, Department of Community Welfare Services, Bungay Street, Watsonia Vic 3087. Telephone (03) 467 3066.

Ann Speer
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Designing and controlling the work environment

Ergonomic Principles in Office Automation: state of the art reports and guidelines on human factors in the office environment Stockholm: Ericsson Information Systems, 1983, 165 pp, $30, available from The Swedish Computer Company P/L, 84 Christie St, St Leonards, NSW 2065 ISBN 91 7260 837 4.

With the increasing use of computers in libraries, this book is particularly useful to librarians concerned with the health and safety aspects of VDUs and ensuring that optimum conditions are achieved and maintained at work stations.

Focussing on computer ergonomics, a number of well known and respected European and American ergonomists were commissioned to write chapters on the Visual Display Unit, Keyboard Design, Work Station Design, The Software Interface, Health and Safety Aspects, and Organisational Aspects. It contains summaries of various national standards, recommendations and union guidelines, and includes guidelines issued by the Commonwealth Department of Science and Technology.

A glossary of terms and a subject index help to make the book more easily understood by the non-specialist reader.

Issues of concern such as vision ergonomics, keyboard design, work station furniture, work posture, fatigue and strain are all discussed, and positive recommendations are made.

For those librarians involved with the selection, installation or use of computer terminals, this text will provide valuable information on how best to achieve optimal working conditions. By ' . . . showing how equipment should be designed . . . and the work environment controlled to suit man', the publishers have as their stated aim, the promotion of both friendlier and more efficient work places.

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Readable, reliable and realistic

Introduction to indexing and abstracting/Donald B. Cleveland and Ana D. Cleveland. Littleton, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited. 1983. 209pp. US$19.50. ISBN 0 87287 346 3.

Even now most indexers and abstractors are self-taught or, if institutionalised, trained unsystematically on the job. Once there was no alternative, and the prevailing informality produced a literature marked by tetchy eccentricity. But things are improving: this book is written with good sense and good humour and is thoughtfully organised in a way that enables it to cover a remarkable number of disparate activities. The authors are so well aware of what they're about that the Introduction may be quoted as a truthful statement of what they succeed in doing as well as what they're attempting:

> The purpose of this text is to present the fundamentals of indexing and abstracting as a foundation for entry-level professional practice. It is viewed as being used in an introductory course which would include a considerable amount of actual practice in indexing and abstracting in a supervised laboratory environment.

However, it could also be used in self-teaching (for which there is still no option for many would-be practitioners) as it is generous with examples and refers the reader to the right instances of publications and services. Each chapter concludes with a list of Suggested Readings, with some items helpfully tied in with the text in a fashion that economically avoids bibliographical notes, and at the end of the volume are a Glossary and an extensive Bibliography.

Nor are the arrant beginner's problems ignored. The chapter on Book Indexes says:

> The first practical step in indexing a book is to go to the closet and find a sturdy shoebox . . .

(Personally I find candy boxes are better: lower sides and therefore easier manipulation of cards or slips — and consumption of original contents far more appropriate to such a sedentary occupation.)

Reverting to the Introduction, the authors continue: 'Indexing and abstracting are much more an art than a science'. This, and the avowed introductory nature of the book, should be kept in mind because it is sometimes tempting to wish the authors had covered even more contingencies; instead, one must think of the post-beginner letting his experience and 'art' take over at some point and starting to solve his own problems, now that he's been pointed in the right direction, when he's ready for the murkier reaches.

The authors conclude their section on purpose in the Introduction with:

The structure of the book is logically developed, beginning with a discussion of the basic concepts of information and its bibliographic control, progressing through methods of indexing and abstracting (with an emphasis on the how-to-do-it), and finally ending with a section on indexing and abstracting as a career. Also included are chapters presenting the use of computers, since this is an established trend in our profession.

Librarians are used to this sort of progression and, indeed, a further claim of this book on the attention of readers of *InCite* is that it maps its territory of librarians, citing rules and conventions familiar to us and effecting a thoroughgoing integration of indexing and abstracting into the information world. The chapter on Vocabulary Control is a balanced and timely contribution to the thinking we're all having to face with the onset of on-line access. The whole book can be recommended as readable, reliable — and realistic.

i ———————— *Janet D. Hine*

Informative, though lacking in style and colour

No Choice: Library Services for the mentally handicapped by Della Pearlman, London: The Library Association. 1982 61 p £7.50 ISBN 0 85365 543 X.

The author started work on this subject for a thesis for a BA in Librarianship; it has since been updated and modified for publication by the Library Association.

The book is attractive to look at and easy to handle. It has only 61 pages, but the print is smaller than average and it is very compact with References, Bibliographies, Reading Lists and Index at the end. While it is obvious that the author put a great deal of research work into this book, like many publications originating from degree thesis, it is somewhat lacking in style and colour. However, as there are few published works on the subject, librarians — especially public librarians — will find this little book informative.

It gives historical, legal and biological definitions of 'Mental Handicap' (Chapter 1). Normalization (Chapter 2) will be the most important section from public librarians' point of view. Once readers accept the concept of normalization then it is easy to agree with the author that public libraries are the most obvious ones to provide services to mentally handicapped people.

The author says;

> . . . The mentally handicapped have a moral, and often legal right to normalization and integrated living. If it is a right, which it is, and the mentally handicapped can be shown to benefit from it, which they can, then there can be no argument, no discussions of the pros and cons and no excuse for not initiating normalization. No excuse whether it is lack of money, lack of inclination, lack of knowledge, is good enough. . .

In Chapter 5 (Problems and practical solutions), the author has tried hard to help practising librarians who work with limited space, budget and resources.

Although the examples cited in the book are British and North American, except for legislation, the references are generally relevant to Australia

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Three useful publications on conserving local government records

Local History Conservation and Restoration Procedures for Public Libraries, Library Association of Australia, NSW Branch, 1980, pp. viii + 46, recommended price $5.00 ($4.00 LAA members). ISBN 0 909915 82 2.

Local Government Records in New South Wales, Library Association of Australia, NSW Branch and Australian Society of Archivists, Sydney Branch, 1981, pp. ix + 86, recommended price $10.00 ($7.00 LAA and ASA members). ISBN 0 909917 97 0.

Local Studies Collections: Guidelines and Subject Headings for Organizing and Indexing Resources, compiled by John Flint and Anne Franklin, Library Association of Australia, NSW Branch, 1981, pp. iv + 203, recommended price $10.00 ISBN 0 909915 95 4.

The increased demand for information on local history and genealogy has placed considerable stress on those responsible for local studies collections. This problem was identified some time ago by the Library Association of Australia. In recent years, the Association has co-operated with the Sydney Branch of the Australian Society of Archivists and the two organizations have presented a series of workshops and seminars concerned with the preservation and arrangement of archival material.

Local History Conservation and Restoration is the outcome of one of these workshops. It provides a useful introduction to the problems of preserving material and includes information on the location and availability of conservation materials and expertise. The approach to preservation presented by the contributors to this volume is a realistic one which emphasizes conservation before restoration. They stress that the most positive plan of action for any custodian is to provide the best possible storage environment. If the temperature and humidity of the repository are controlled to the levels suggested and if harmful agents such as dust and vermin are excluded, much future expenditure on restoration will be saved.

The workshop and seminar on local government records was one of the most important events in the preservation of NSW social history documentation to take place for some time. The seminar highlighted what many archivists, librarians and historians have known for years — that local government records are a sadly neglected source of information for research in a wide range of disciplines. Also highlighted was the precarious existence of most local government records. Whilst the NSW Local Government Act 1919 provides for the permanent retention of some records, it does not cover a number of other classes of records such as rate and assessment books, which are valuable as sources of historical information. Contributors to *Local Government Records in New South Wales* propose a number of ways to ensure the better preservation of local government records, the most important of these being alteration to the Local Government Act to widen the number and type of records which local government bodies must permanently preserve.

The most potentially valuable of the books under review is *Local Studies Collections.* As the compilers point out, there is no correct way of indexing and arranging collections of local material. They present in a very straightforward manner the methods used by the Stanton Library at North Sydney and by the Willoughby Municipal Library. These methods have been tried and found effective and will undoubtedly be subjected to constant review as circumstances dictate. For the custodian of a small collection, the procedures outlined by John Flint and Anne Franklin provide an efficient means of indexing material. It is doubtful whether these methods are applicable to collections which contain large archival groups.

John Flint and Anne Franklin raise a number of problems associated with local studies collections. That these problems exist and that experienced librarians are seeking solutions to them suggests that there is ample scope for the Library Association of Australia and the Australian Society of Archivists to co-operate in the organization of future seminars and workshops dealing with local history. It would be useful if a series of manuals covering the arrangement, use and preservation of photographs, audio-visual material, micro forms and other material represented in local studies collections could be prepared.

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(This review was first published in the December 1982 issue of the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society and is reprinted with permission.)

Despite drawbacks, a series that deserves support

Studies in the application of free text package systems/ John Ashford and Derek Matkin. London: Library Association. 1982. 50 pp. £5.75. ISBN 0 85365 535 9.
Computing in LASER: regional library co-operation/ Jean M. Plaister. London: Library Association, 1982. 58 pp. £5.75. ISBN 0 85365 954 0.

These paperbacks comprise the first two of the series 'Case Studies in Library Automation', published by the Library Association to provide librarians and librarianship students with 'a readily accessible source of information on the practice of library automation'. The introduction indicates that, for each application, the authors are expected to develop the reasons for automation, describe the stages of implementation and appraise the effectiveness of the system. In addition, care is to be taken to avoid computer jargon and to ensure that descriptions are comprehensible to those with a minimal knowledge of computers.

The first of the studies on free text package systems is not very successful in embodying these aims, partly because Ashford and Matkin try to be both general and specific simultaneously. Their first two chapters comprise general waffle about library applications of computers and the scope for free text systems. Other introductory texts on library automation have done much better and in greater detail.

The third chapter covering current applications of free text systems — and in particular, the use of STATUS software by a variety of special libraries — is the best, because it is most sharply focused. This section is supported by tables (as Appendices) comparing applications, number of records, hardware and software. The thumbnail sketches of these libraries' uses of STATUS are descriptive and factual, but could well have been expanded to include rationale for implementation and an assessment of effectiveness.

The study also suffers from poor editing (eg reference 25 is missing; chapter 2 is numbered 3.1, 3.2 etc) and the inclusion of at least two or three undefined acronyms on every page of text. There is a glossary of computer terms, but no acronyms are included.

Computing in LASER: Regional library co-operation succeeds much better in meeting the goals of the series. In describing the evolution of LASER (London and South Eastern Library Region), Plaister clearly documents the problems encountered, findings of relevant studies carried out in relation to LASER, alternatives available at major decision points, and decisions and their rationale. Tables and diagrams complement the written text. Although several acronyms are included in her glossary, it is unfortunately by no means complete.

In each study, the one mention of Australia fares badly. Ashford and Matkin refer (p 5) to the use of SCALE 'for storage and retrieval of Australian statues [*sic*] and case law', while Plaister indicates (p 48) that 'the mainframe programs which LASER is using were originally developed ... for the University of Sydney [*sic*], Australia'.

At £5.75 for approximately 50 pages, the information presented does not come cheaply. The concept of a series of comprehensive case studies is a sound one, however, and deserves support. There are to be five more in the series, covering library automation at Hatfield Polytechnic, Polytechnic of the South Bank, Essex County Libraries, Bristol University and circulation control in Derbyshire.

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Readable, entertaining case studies

Problems in library management / by A J Anderson. Littleton, Col.:Libraries Unlimited, 1981. 282 pp. (Library science text series). US $22.50. ISBN 0 87287 261 0; ISBN 0 87287 264 5 (pbk).

> All at once Tournquist's vision narrowed and she saw everything as if it were happening in a small room far away, or as if she were looking at it through the wrong end of a telescope. She sat there, saturated in depression, as if she had lost her faith. Participative management was part of her religion, beyond and above argument. Was everything she learned for naught? She felt extinguished. Blotted out, scattered, lost. Her impulse was to rush out of the office. But no! She had suddenly a new feeling, like a tardy response to the stimulus of an unfamiliar drug. He was drumming on the desk with exasperated fingers, his mouth quirked at the corners, as if saying 'Wriggle out of that!'

Drama, melodrama and case study all in one. The subject description given by the Library of Congress is 'Library administration — Case studies' but Anderson's book also deserves an additional entry at Librarians — Fiction.

He has written 22 very readable, entertaining case studies, each with its own protagonist, supporting cast, and plot, and all in the literary style of the short story. The scenarios are those likely to be encountered by many library school graduates in the early days of their careers in libaries. The focus of each study is the problem of human interaction that takes place in organisations. The understanding and ability to cope with this problem can be a challenge to the recent graduate aspiring to fulfil a middle management position in a library, particularly if his experience of organisational life is limited.

Each job situation here is based upon real problems and real people drawn from the experiences of librarians, media specialists and information scientists in different types of library. To make each case study more credible, the text of each is followed by an appendix supplying data on the library under study (eg goals, formal structure, facilities, floor plan, collections).

The justification for such creative effort is Anderson's belief that the case study method is a significant learning experience in preparing librarians for careers in library management. The analysis of a case study provides students with the opportunity to develop problem-solving capabilities, exercise judgement, and attain 'the management frame of mind'. The analysis is based upon a theoretical foundation of management principles. Anderson has written the case studies as a companion to *Library Management* by Robert D. Stueart and John Eastlick. 2nd ed. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1981.

The case studies follow the structure underlying *Library Management*, ie planning, organising, staffing, directing and controlling. They are intended to be a vehicle for translating into practice the principles and theories of management documented by Stueart and Eastlick. Obviously if *Library Management* is used as a text by lecturers, *Problems in library management* will be a natural teaching aid to draw upon. In courses where a different approach to library management is taken, the case studies will be less useful to the lecturer given that one usually writes a case study to illustrate a specific problem.

However, the book would be pertinent background reading for any students of library management. It will alert them to the range of management values and individual management styles and personalities that they are likely to meet in the real world. Although the target markets are library school lecturers and students, the general nature of the problems presented (eg conflicting management values, corporate politics, planning of library programmes, introducing change, sexual harassment, favouritism, staff cuts, staff discipline) would also provide useful and lively material for library in-service training programmes and management workshops.

Lois Jennings
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An important contribution to cataloguing literature

Cataloguing machine-readable data files: an interpretive manual/ Sue A. Dodd. Chicago: American Library Association, 1982. xix, 247p. US$35.00. ISBN 0 8389 0365 7.

A machine-readable data file (MRDF) as defined in AACR2 is 'a body of information coded by methods that require the use of a machine (typically a computer) for processing.' (1) This publication discusses the problems associated with the bibliographic control of MRDFs. This medium is becoming popular for the storage of large quantities of tabular or numeric data. Libraries in North America are taking advantage of contemporary technology to make this type of data readily available to library users, and, because the costs of equipment to read these data files is decreasing, the inclusion of MRDFs in the library collection is becoming a viable proposition as an additional information source.

The book is divided into three parts. The first covers terminology and definitions and

also discusses practical issues that assist in the bibliographic identification of data files. The second part deals with the specific problems of bibliographic control, and takes the reader on a step by step interpretive guide through chapter 9 of AACR2. Included in this section is a valuable discussion which accompanies examples of bibliographic records for a variety of MRDFs for texts, maps, computer programs and time series data bases.

The third section provides guidelines for bibliographic conventions and multilevel record keeping. The guidelines for bibliographic conventions are designed primarily for 'those data producers and distributors who have the responsibility for providing descriptive information on available MRDF and for seeing that such information reaches its intended audience.'(2) They are not guidelines for the cataloguer, though in practice familiarity with these conventions will make bibliographic control of MRDF much easier. The information made available through these bibliographic conventions allows cataloguers and processors to create the multilevel records, aspects of which are covered in the final chapter.

Four appendices provide further practical guidelines including work sheet samples. The glossary is also invaluable for retrieving short definitions quickly. The index, however, is not consistent in its identification of material. Some items worthy of inclusion have been omitted while items of dubious value have been traced.

This book is an important contribution to cataloguing literature. There are several misquotes from AACR2 which do not alter the context, but detract from the book's scholarliness, and lead one to question the accuracy of other citations. Never-the-less the guidelines and examples, as well as the useful discussions make the book an essential cataloguer's manual for libraries which keep machine readable data files.

It is difficult not to notice the existence of both machine readable data files and machine readable catalogue records. One must ask when will they catalogue their own?

References
(1) *Anglo-American Cataloguing rules*. 2nd ed. prepared by the American Library Association (*et al*). London: The Library Association, 1978. p. 202.
(2) Dodd, Sue. *Cataloguing machine-readable data files*, op.cit., p. 157.

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Well produced, robust and well-written

Dewey Decimal Classification, 19th edition: a study manual/ Jeanne Osborn. Littleton, Colo: Libraries Unlimited 1982 366 p US$27.50 ISBN 0 87287 293 9

The author of this study manual, Jeanne Osborn, is Professor, School of Library Science, University of Iowa, and has been previously involved in the revision of two other American textbooks on classification. This book is intended to provide an introduction to DC19 and a discussion of the changes which the new edition presents.

The book is introduced by John P Comaromi, Editor of the Dewey Decimal Classification, who, in recommending Osborn's work, declares that it does not overlap the contents of Forest Press's *Manual on the Use of the Dewey Decimal Classification: Edition 19* (400 p, US$20.00) by John P Comaromi and Margaret J Warren and issued earlier

this year. The *Manual*, which is likely to be regarded as the official manual, focuses on the application of DC19 and 'the meanings and relationships of the various numbers of the DDC' and is thus more explanatory and less comparative than the *Study Manual*.

Professor Osborn's four introductory chapters on the character and modernization of DC are the most interesting part of the book to this reviewer because of their subject matter and because they bring together in one place, and in one logical sequence, material usually available only in many scattered sources, for the most part in journal articles. These chapters should prove invaluable to students of librarianship. Osborn's account of the 'Berman View' is highly entertaining. Sanford (Sandy) Berman, 'the Socratic gadfly of subject cataloguing for at least a decade', is Head Cataloguer of the Hennepin County Library, Edina, Minnesota, and he regularly bursts into print on new concepts he. considers neglected by DC — from *Alternative medicine* to *War games* — and he must be the bane of the DC Editor as some Australian mathematicians must have been to his predecessor, Benjamin Custer.

The bulk of this well-written textbook consists of a detailed and clearly expressed account of developments in each class of DC and also of those in the auxiliary tables. Sets of exercises follow the treatment of each section. The exercises are arranged in groups: analysis of DC notation derived from Library of Congress cataloguing, synthesis from descriptions of subjects, reclassification to DC19 given numbers from earlier editions and, finally, examples of how LC solved the foregoing problems.

There is an interesting but brief chapter on the eleventh edition of the Abridged DDC in which Osborn suggests that a comparison of the sales of DDC19 and Abr 11 might show that 'most library classification can proceed quite well with Abr 11 alone' (p 33) relegating the use of the fully expanded DC for classed catalogues and indexes.

Each chapter has full notes which record contributions to the literature of DC. [The notes have far too many *ibids* where *loc cits* or *op cits* would be more appropriate.] There is a bibliography, which includes citations of the work of Australian mathematicians Donovan, Hunt and Mack as well as of librarians Ramsden, McKinlay, Alonso and Prescott. There is, finally, an author/title/subject index, in which the 'Moyes classification' (p 362) is consistently misspelt as Ross Trotter did in the passage quoted at p 192 from his article in *Catalogue & Index*. It should be 'Moys'. The next edition should also amend the typographical error on p 28 at line 8 where '769 ... Portuguese literature' should be 869.

The volume is well produced of robust materials. It is clearly printed and very well laid out. I wish such textbooks had been available to me thirty years ago.   *Robert Langke*
i ——————University of New South Wales