

adds substantially to those existing in the field in the following ways:

1. The information storage and retrieval field is viewed broadly—going beyond the traditional library and even beyond the specialized information or documentation center. Rather, the information that is considered covers the broad spectrum, ranging from numerical to nonnumerical information; the systems considered range from the manual to the computer-oriented.
2. The organization of the field is pleasing: starting with fundamental filing problems; continuing with organization of information; then on to coding (called “the indexing shorthand”); going on to machine language representation; punched card systems; computer systems; and finally to microfilm and image handling equipment.

The book is interspersed with cost estimates and practical words of caution. The author has obviously made a special attempt to illustrate the book exhaustively, since there are no less than 176 figures and 23 tables in the numbered sequences, and more of them unnumbered. Their production is rather uniformly good.

From rags to riches is the situation we now have with regard to textbooks in the information storage and retrieval field. Only eighteen months ago there were none, and now there are three. Of course, there are overlaps, but not unhealthy ones. The instructor who now wishes to use a text for an introductory course in the information sciences can use parts of each text, or he can follow closely any one of them.—*Allen Kent, University of Pittsburgh.*

The Place of a Research Library in a Liberal Arts College, Proceedings of a Symposium Held at Bowdoin College, February 21-22, 1963. Brunswick, Maine: Bowdoin College, 1963. 84p. \$2. (63-25194).

The achievements of the brilliantly conceived and admirably carried out Bowdoin College conference on *The Place of Research in a Liberal Arts College* held in February 1963 are now available to a wider audience. Frederick Wagman, graduate of a liberal arts college and the director of a

large university library, was in an excellent position to make comparisons. He was fretful about junior colleges and the new “universities” with inadequate resources, to say nothing about faculty and student research needs. The task of selecting materials for a college library is more difficult than selecting materials for a large university. Coordination of the teaching and research programs is essential in both colleges and universities. Mr. Wagman suggested that the resources, staffs, and buildings have to be generous if the prestige colleges are to maintain their status in the years to come.

The second speaker, Eileen Thornton, is responsible for directing the library of Oberlin, a prestige college. With smaller faculties and a more compact curriculum, the college nevertheless has marked problems of recruitment and retention of faculty members as specialized interests emerge that may change the variety of materials demanded. The increased number of periodicals and serials required to support teaching programs and to meet faculty and student needs, means ever increasing budgets, staff, and buildings. Good basic collections plus staff members prepared and able to identify suitable topics for student specialization are essential. An increase in independent work may reduce the faculty load but will increase the library staff load and will affect library staff budgets.

Bowdoin was represented among the speakers by Professor Athern Daggett, Professor Emeritus Edward C. Kirkland, and Librarian Richard Harwell. They commended Bowdoin for its library resources assembled over a long span of years. Mr. Harwell suggested that faculty-library relations are a two-way street. Professor Kirkland reminded the conference that the library is a central fact larger than architectural terms but extending to basic policy, library staff, and faculty appointments, promotions, and replacements. What counts is students and professors at work together in classrooms and the library.

The conference closed with an address by Verner W. Clapp, president of the Council on Library Resources. He defined a research library as a place in which one can go to the sources and trace a footnote back home. The possibility of assembling a million-volume library in microform will not

answer the problems, for even the largest libraries cannot hope to have everything. Further technical advances in microreproduction were predicted, but such deterrents were noted as copyright infringement and the lack of a good hand reader by which the individual can read microprints. Mr. Clapp stated that the purpose of a research library in an undergraduate college is to bring into the educational process the development of research attitudes. He warned, however, that while a selected undergraduate library has great merit it may provide the user with the excuse for being lazy by being content with the best encyclopedias and the latest monographs.

Lacking in the publication is a record of the discussions that must have taken place in the dining rooms and at informal get-togethers. These may have been the most gratifying part of the program. They probably centered around resources, especially of periodicals, the quality of the faculty and the library staff, and of buildings to provide room for the resources and users.—*Flora B. Ludington, Mount Holyoke College.*

Phonograph Record Libraries: Their Organisation and Practise. Edited by Henry F. J. Currall, for the International Association of Music Libraries. Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1963. 182p. \$5.50. (63-6033/MN).

The ever-increasing number of phonograph record collections in public and academic libraries is slowly forcing out of the guardians of these collections a body of pertinent literature. The already-great need for such material grows daily while the material itself merely trickles out. Thus, it is quite an event when an entire book is devoted to the subject, as is the volume under consideration here.

Produced under the aegis of the International Association of Music Libraries, this series of essays by various authors is edited by Henry F. J. Currall, F.L.A., who has attempted to compile a book that will be helpful to established as well as to future record libraries.

In addition to editing the volume, Mr. Currall contributed a chapter dealing with the establishment and maintenance of phonorecord libraries. While conceding that some

of the information found in this chapter will be of interest to a library considering the addition of a record collection to its present services, this reviewer found it to be far too detailed (his model record library collected £693 in fines and £37 for breakage in a given year) and too specific to have any great significance for a library with much more or less than a 25' x 15' space allotment (his minimum).

Undoubtedly the most useful chapter for the record library already in operation is the one by Eric Cooper entitled "Technical Data and Information on Gramophone Record Libraries." This presents a brief explanation of the process of record manufacturing, followed by a detailed, illustrated discussion of the stylus. A short section dealing with amplification becomes somewhat too technical for the electrical layman ("In the constant amplitude system the cutter displacement is in proportion to the amplitude of the driving voltage. . . .") and the chapter concludes with a helpful lecture on the general care of records. Here is found one of the most fascinating statements in library literature: "To safeguard records, borrowers should be advised to use a diamond stylus with a tip radius of .007 in."

What ought to be the most useful chapter, that on phonodisc cataloging procedures followed at the BBC, evolves quickly into a pedantic and elementary treatise written in high school textbook style ("If a person is going to perform any task, the first essential is that he has some knowledge and interest in the materials to be dealt with. . . . A person who is not particularly interested can never make a success of anything"). Although the bare facts in this chapter are sometimes helpful and enlightening, the tone of delivery is such that many readers will be alienated immediately. The page and a half devoted to the preaching of ACCURACY! in cataloging, for instance, is surely unnecessary here.

Since the book is directed to a public library audience, much of its material will be of little interest and consequence to most readers of this journal. It lacks such desirable things as a comparative discussion of the pros and cons of various cataloging systems and only one of its 182 pages gives recognition to the existence of spoken word recordings. As an addition to a mass of