"Changes in Sexual Identities" are, with comments by Jane Cooney and Gerald Shields, interesting, but like Atkinson and Ely on the process of change, the material is somewhat familiar if well encapsuled. Shane's paper, based on his own research and the opinions of leaders in education and futurists, leads one with ideals of excellence almost to despairing conclusions but is well worth reading.

The presentations of the nonlibrarians are, on the whole, generally more thoughtful, more scholarly, and more intellectually satisfying than the responses by the librarians—perhaps because the latter had little time to study them and, in any case, were not really expected to write scholarly critiques, but rather to respond in public, almost extemporaneously, to them. As such, they reflect a much more immediate perspective, rather than a futuristic one. There were also a few comments on our colleagues that jarred a bit as, for example, I have found librarians, in the pragmatic tradition inherent in the profession, to be rather more receptive to change than we are given credit for, and certainly more so than, say, the faculties and students many of us serve.

I was disappointed a bit in what I saw as a curious lack of value considerations in the discussions (excepting Thompson's), even though I recognize that our society is increasingly valueless. There were, rather, perhaps as there should have been, simply the authors' perceptions of reality: "This is what we think we know. . . ." But this disinterested approach seems to imply to this reviewer an almost fatuous optimism which I believe misplaced.

There was little recognition of the fact that changes in librarianship, while of both immediate and future importance to *us*, are very small beer in the grand design (if there is a grand design) of the future. There was little sense of the decline of the West, if you will, of the graying of society, of the submergence of the individual and the decline of individualism, of the present and future lack of privacy, and of the diminishing ability of modern men and women to control their own destinies.

It is not fair to review a book for what it is not, of course, and even in the regimented life of, say, China, I suppose libraries function and librarians may even be happy in their work. Western man would not—will not!—be so happy in our world of the future. Perhaps he doesn't deserve to be. . . .—*Stuart Forth, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park.*

The Library of Congress in Perspective. A Volume Based on the Reports of the 1976 Librarian's Task Force and Advisory Groups. Edited by John Y. Cole. New York: Bowker, 1978. 281p. $21.95. LC 78-5000. ISBN 0-8352-1055-3.

When a library engages in self-study, the first area of investigation tends to be the historical context of the institution. This historical understanding of the forces giving shape to an organization becomes particularly important when the institution is the Library of Congress. In 1976, Daniel Boorstin, then newly appointed Librarian of Congress, ordered a self-study of the library by creating a task force on goals, organization, and planning. Over a one-year period, the task force, chaired by John Y. Cole, investigated the library's past, discussed the present with a large number of staff, and outlined recommendations for its future. The findings and recommendations comprise the bulk of this volume.

The book serves two purposes: it provides a history of the Library of Congress, and it outlines the recommendations of the task force. The historical section focuses on the four earlier organizational assessments conducted by the Library of Congress in 1940, 1947, 1962, and 1967. The results of these studies indicate the political and economic trends that have contributed to the character of the Library of Congress.

The question of the appropriate role for the Library of Congress has been haunting the various Librarians of Congress since the beginning. The discussion of the legislation and recommendations of various groups is a particularly noteworthy contribution of this publication. Equally useful is the chronology of the most important events in the institution's history, beginning with its establishment in Washington in 1800.

The findings and recommendations of the 1976 task force have been available for some time now, and that section of the book is

not really new; yet, the recommendations set in historical perspective make for provocative reading.

What will prove most interesting is the implementation of these recommendations. One obvious result of the study was the opening of an office of planning and development. This office has been given the task of establishing mechanisms for implementing the recommendations approved by the Librarian. Some of them can be accomplished in this way. Other concerns, such as the question of LC's national role, remain unanswered.

This book is an excellent contemporary view of the Library of Congress. It offers descriptions of the multitude of programs and services and provides insights into what can be expected in the next few years. The most encouraging aspect of reading the work is learning that the Library of Congress is approaching the future with logic and purpose.

The price of the book seems exorbitant, but librarians will be pleased to have the information about the Library of Congress' plans for the future. Both for historical purposes and a current view this book will prove useful.—*Deanna B. Marcum, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, D.C.*

Butler, Brett; Aveney, Brian; and Scholz, William. "**The Conversion of Manual Catalogs to Collection Data Bases,**" *Library Technology Reports* 14:109–206 (March–April 1978). $40 for single issue. (Available from: American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.)

Hewitt, Joe A. *OCLC: Impact and Use—A Study of The Charter Members of the Ohio College Library Center.* Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio State University Libraries, Office of Educational Services, 1977. 188p. $8.95. LC 77-620000. ISBN 0-88215-043-1. (Available from: O.S.U. Libraries Publications Committee, Room 001, Main Library, 1858 Neil Ave. Mall, Columbus OH 43210. Prepaid orders sent postpaid.)

During the past few years a number of libraries have departed from the traditional card catalog to provide access to their collections by means of an automated system. In the future a great many more libraries will make this change. To do so, the libraries involved will require information on the techniques available for data base conversion and understanding of the impact of automated systems on libraries. These two reports provide much of the information needed by a library contemplating the development of an automated access system.

The intent of the Butler/Aveney/Scholz report is to provide a "summary of resources available to local libraries, and a guide through the cumulative experience of a number of libraries which have converted their catalogs." This report is not so ambitious an undertaking that the reader is overwhelmed. Neither is it so cursory that planning information needed to make a useful judgment is lacking. The authors have strived to develop a timely handbook for those beginning the process of converting from manual to machine data bases. They have structured the report into four parts that deal respectively with: (1) the nature and meaning of the concept of machine-readable data bases; (2) the evaluation criteria required to examine data bases, vendor products, and conversion approaches; (3) the various conversion approaches available; and (4) the capabilities and limitations of the major vendors and their data base systems.

As the authors point out, the most likely way to convert a catalog is to make use of a "resource data base" such as OCLC. They provide a concise definition of the concept involved and a description of the criteria and tools required to handle a conversion. Their thrust has been to concentrate on providing evaluation criteria and conversion approaches. However, they have also provided a section on vendor capabilities that contains a summary table of the various services available from eight vendors, including OCLC.

Although the Hewitt report is intended to provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of OCLC on library operations, it also provides some insights into the kinds of changes that will occur as libraries convert their data bases. OCLC will probably provide the major resource data base for conversion projects, if it doesn't already. Many