

brary cooperation have been initiated. SHARES must be rated high for effort. This reviewer is of the opinion that SHARES could accomplish a great deal more if adequate funds for cooperative action were made available. This is the rub.

It is quite clear that large-scale library cooperation of any type cannot flourish without introducing funds from outside sources not heretofore tapped. While the current picture seems rather dim insofar as additional federal funds are concerned, librarians must push for state aid with greater vigor than ever before.—*Alex Ladenson, The Chicago Public Library.*

**Libraries in France.** John Ferguson. Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1971. 120p.

With the growing enthusiasm for comparative library studies, new surveys of foreign libraries should be noted with interest by the library profession. In this context John Ferguson's *Libraries in France* is especially welcome, offering as it does a state-of-the-art look at the French library scene. Considering the paucity of materials on French libraries that have been published in English, this book is a useful entry into a rather embarrassing void.

Written in a concise, factual style, Ferguson's book is a sort of *Guide Bleu* to the world of librarianship in France. The author, librarian of the British Council in Paris, surveys numerous aspects of the French library scene, from the structure of the national library board to the operation of mobile bibliobuses in remote areas. His study emphasizes the rather arresting fact that, by contrast with the country's rich cultural heritage, development of a nationwide system of library service has been, until recently, an unfortunately low-priority item.

The text consists of thirteen short chapters; details concerning the history, development, and purpose of various types of French libraries are summarized. Municipal, general, university, and children's and school libraries are among the varieties thus treated; space is devoted to a compact discussion of phono record libraries as well. The section dealing with professional organizations and the status of education for librarianship in France brings hard-to-find information together in useful fashion.

Of particular interest is a chapter devoted to *La Lecture Publique*. Issued in 1968 under the auspices of a governmental committee, *La Lecture Publique* was a study of the state of French library service, and is to French libraries what the *Public Library Inquiry* was to the American scene. Persons interested in the scope of public library service available in France circa 1968 will find Ferguson's résumé of the report helpful indeed; a summary of the means being employed to expand service is included as well.

Short bibliographies accompany each chapter of this book, and there is an index. The chapters on university and public libraries contain particularly handy tabular summaries of statistics regarding library building programs. To sum up, *Libraries in France* is a compact statistical survey of the subject and should prove most useful as a ready reference tool.—*Cathleen Flanagan, University of Utah Libraries.*

**Scientific and Technological Documentation: Archival Evaluation and Processing of University Records Relating to Science and Technology.** Maynard J. Brichford. Urbana-Champaign, Ill.: University of Illinois, 1969. 35p.

One result of the unprecedented increase in the number of colleges and universities, and of the expansion of the older institutions, in the last decade, is the growth of interest in the development of institutional archives, apparently exceeding the rate of growth of archives in the previous decades. The concern of most institutions for their archival responsibilities is still inadequate, but there is certainly a recognized need for help by many academic librarians and scholars in gathering and administering their institutions' records of permanent historical value.

Previously, there has been little available in print relating to the specific role of the college or university archivist, other than periodical articles, or a few pages in a general manual on archives. The most direct assistance has been found in two slim volumes of conference and institute proceedings, also emanating from the University of Illinois, and in which Maynard Brich-