

ed are, among others, France, the two Germanies, the USSR, Belgium, Scandinavia, Hungary, and Poland; also Japan, India, Singapore, South Africa, and Mexico are more or less adequately represented. But the survey has still considerable gaps, e.g., concerning South America. One would wish to see them filled in another edition.

Withers has organized the material according to types of libraries. National libraries receive limited space only. Libraries in universities and colleges are more amply covered. Withers is well aware of the difficulty in making valid quantitative comparisons between academic libraries in different countries (and often even different institutions in the same country). He provides extensive abstracts from important standard documents. For instance, his summary of the ALA Standards for College Libraries (1959) occupies almost seven pages. The Canadian University Library Standards (1964), the recommendations of the *Wissenschaftsrat* for scholarly libraries in West Germany (1964), and the Standards for Colleges of Technology issued by the British Library Association (1971) are reproduced in considerable detail, to give but three other examples.

About half of the volume is devoted to public libraries. This rich coverage is due to the fact that standards for them have been developed in many countries. School libraries and special libraries receive much less space. The last chapter deals with the difficult subject of standards for library service in developing countries. Asked by Unesco, Withers has prepared a set of standards which might be applied in developing countries, but he recognizes the fact that the level of library service depends not only on the desire but on the capacity of a country to provide the resources needed.

Withers has been successful in avoiding partisanship and hasty judgments. The text reads well. Surprising for a publication on libraries, it lacks a comprehensive bibliography and an index. Nevertheless, this is an essential purchase for larger academic libraries.—*Felix E. Hirsch, Professor Emeritus, Trenton State College.*

Thomson, Sarah Katharine. *Learning Re-*

*source Centers in Community Colleges: A Survey of Budgets and Services.* Chicago: American Library Assn., 1975. 146p. \$6.50 (LC 75-16150) (ISBN 0-8389-0206-5)

Statistical studies of community college libraries supported by empirical knowledge obtained by visits of informed investigators have long been needed so that valid quantitative standards may be developed. Thomson, familiar with the community college as well as an experienced surveyor, provides a solid research report which can be of great use in understanding the problems and services of such two-year institutions.

Twenty-seven community colleges in ten states were selected from among the forty with the largest expenditures. Each was visited so that financial data could be interpreted in relation to services provided. Only partial budget data were available from some of them, limiting certain conclusions.

The study confirms the greater involvement in instruction, the comprehensiveness of learning resources programs, and the difficulty in obtaining comparable financial data. The extent of computer utilization,



## DEAN OF LIBRARIES

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both in instruction and in daily operations, is but one difference from the four-year institutions which is reflected in the philosophy of the community college as reported.

The most useful aspect of the report is the synthesis of interviews of staff members of the various institutions which provide a framework within which the budget is used to interpret the services provided. As a result this is a document which can be used to evaluate possible services and to justify budget requests for expansion of services or staff. College financial and administrative officers could read the report with profit. Its best uses will come from the clearer understanding of the functions of the learning resources programs provided and as a source of management data for budget planning until a more comprehensive study is possible.—James O. Wallace, *Director of Learning Resources, San Antonio College, San Antonio, Texas.*

Clarke, D. A., ed. *Acquisitions from the Third World: Papers of the Ligue des bibliothèques européennes de recherche seminar 17-19 September 1973*. London: Mansell, 1975. 276p. £5.95 (U.S. \$15.00) (Distributed in North America by International Scholarly Book Services, Inc., P.O. Box 4347, Portland, OR 97208) (ISBN 0-7201-0453-X)

This volume contains the papers of a seminar sponsored by the Ligue des bibliothèques européennes de recherche (LIBER), held in 1972 at the University of Sussex, Great Britain, dealing with the acquisition of materials from the "Third World." The introduction states that the purpose of the meeting was "to examine the problems of acquisition [of Third World publications]; the availability of materials in European libraries both for reference and for lending; and the feasibility of setting up a European centre for the collection of such material, to be available for loan." These designs were clearly within the scope of LIBER's intentions which include a special effort to encourage cooperative relationships among the research libraries of Western Europe.

The recommendations offered by the seminar are largely predictable, somewhat

lacking in specificity, and reminiscent of the aims and objectives of such antecedent efforts as NPAC, LACAP, and the Farmington Plan. The seminar suggests, for example, that the acquisition of Third World material is important to meet the needs of scholars, that at least one copy of this published material should be available in a library in Europe, and that the collecting of this material must proceed from cooperation with library and book trade centers in countries of the Third World. The seminar further recommends that LIBER should establish a "working party" to undertake the implementation of these proposals.

It is particularly encouraging to note, however, that the seminar placed special emphasis on the need for general availability as opposed to widespread ownership of these materials, going so far as to suggest the establishment of a European lending library for Third World publications. In addition, the seminar made specific mention of the need to ensure the availability of information concerning the location of loanable copies. Too often, much ado is made about interlibrary loan in lieu of local ownership, but unless the scholar is provided with quick and easy information regarding alternate locations, much time and effort is lost or repeated.

The real strength of this publication is to be found in the content of the chapters of the individual contributors. One hesitates to single out any of the papers on grounds that to do so would suggest that the rest are somewhat pedestrian by comparison. It is perhaps sufficient to note that here are to be found theoretical considerations for the head of collection development, practical suggestions for the acquisitions librarians, and historical perspectives for the student. In short, the collection of parts is greater than their sum.

As is so often the case with the publication of conference proceedings, this volume did not appear until two years after the close of the seminar. It is regrettable that the publishing cycle frequently introduces such inordinate delays, and we are perhaps fortunate that the hiatus was not greater in this instance.—J. Michael Bruer, *Associate University Librarian, New York University.*