

Borchardt, D. H., and Horacek, J. I. *Librarianship in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania: A Brief Survey*. Potts Point, NSW, Australia: Pergamon Press (Australia), 1975. 80p. \$6.50. ISBN 0-08-019920-8. ISBN 0-08-019752-3 paper.

The impetus for this slender monograph surveying librarianship in the South Pacific was provided by a commission soliciting a chapter for a comparative study of librarianship throughout the world.

Preceding the text are simple, uncluttered maps of Australia and New Zealand. On them are marked, by a variety of dots, population densities of five to twenty thousand and twenty to one hundred thousand plus. Cities with populations in excess of one hundred thousand are listed down the side of the maps. Those unfamiliar with these countries will need to have an atlas on hand in order to identify the locations of the cities. The end papers are maps illustrating the area of the Pacific Ocean under discussion.

The book opens with a rudimentary account of the history and geography of this diverse region, which lays the foundation for the reader. From there it moves into an overview of the field. Types of libraries are discussed along with library education, professional status, including salary structures, and the literature. Several interesting tables of public and university library statistics for Australia and New Zealand are included in the chapter on "Types of Libraries." In an epilogue the authors identify the future course of librarianship down under and enumerate ways in which this can be achieved. The compactness and continuity found elsewhere in the book are somewhat lacking in the final chapter on "Bibliography and the Literature of Librarianship."

At the outset the authors express hope that this brief survey will serve as a text for library school students who wish to gain insight into the function of librarianship in their society—a topic, by and large, neglected by library schools. The book also will be invaluable to librarians who are interested in working in this part of the world. Concise, factual, and interestingly written, it presents, in a nutshell, the growth and current status of librarianship in the South Pacific.—*Judith P. Cannan, Deputy Chief Instructor, Cataloging In-*

*struction Office, Processing Department, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.*

Chen, Ching-chih. *Biomedical, Scientific & Technical Book Reviewing*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1976. 186p. \$8.00. LC 76-20480. ISBN 0-8108-0939-7.

The basic premise undergirding the various studies described in this book is about as controversial as apple pie and motherhood. Few science librarians would deny the repeated assertions that book reviews are a valuable means of keeping abreast of current research and of evaluating and selecting new acquisitions. Nor is the identification of those scientific journals which best supply reliable, timely reviews too difficult, although precise information on the adequacy of various aspects of that coverage is more difficult to locate.

The interesting data supplied in this collection of quantitative surveys of scientific review sources are from counts made in the early 1970s from journals held by the Countway Library of Medicine at Harvard and the science and engineering libraries at M.I.T. Insight on such variables as extent of coverage, time lag, duplication patterns, length of review, subject orientation, and the relative emphasis on U.S. and British imprints is furnished in successive chapters for general biomedical books, books on clinical medicine, general scientific books, and publications in the special disciplines of mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, geology, and engineering. An additional chapter gives supplementary data on major publishers in each of the areas surveyed.

There is much solid information here, although most of it is fragmented by the format, which not only confines the analysis of each study to a separate section but follows no uniform pattern in assessing the recurrent variables. These difficulties stem partly from a constant slight shift of parameters for each data base. Most chapters report both a pilot study and an update study made some two or three years later. Frequently a periodical which met the criteria for one study proved to be insignificant for the companion study. Some titles too useful to be ignored were not held in the two base collections. For different reasons the spans of data collection varied from six months