

the information is introductory in nature. Those elements that make it valuable as a text tend to erode its value to the experienced librarian or researcher. The communication of useful information is further hindered by an obvious lack of good editorial work. Sentences are at times awkward and often overly long; the use of qualifiers is distracting to the reader who seeks at least a tone of authority in a guide to sources of information.

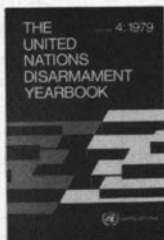
Anyone wishing to use this as a text should examine it carefully prior to a purchase commitment. For others it is neither a substitute for nor a supplement to the more standard Hoselitz and White.—*Joyce Ball, California State University, Sacramento.*

Hall, J. L., and Dewe, A. *Online Information Retrieval, 1976-1979: An International Bibliography.* Aslib Bibliography 10. London: Aslib, 1980. 230p. £16 members; £19.50 nonmembers. ISBN 0-85142-127-X.

This bibliography covers mainly "subject-oriented information retrieval from *bibliographic files*" and the authors make no claim to coverage of either computerized catalogs or numerical data bases.

It spans the period 1976-79, which saw a burgeoning of literature in this field. Much of the increase in the literature is accounted for by articles written by or for practitioners as contrasted with an emphasis on research in earlier years. Although even the beginning date of this bibliography is quite recent, the field has changed so rapidly that already some of the material listed is only of historical interest. Because a number of relevant items were reported to the authors after their cutoff date of June 1979, a supplement of more than 160 additional items was added without annotations and with only partial indexing. Adding the supplement brings the total to more than one thousand entries for the period beginning with mid-1976 and continuing through mid-1979.

Coverage is truly international. There are



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entries from Japan (articles in Japanese), South Africa, Australia, India, and, of course, England, Europe, and the United States.

All types of material are included, with journal articles constituting 59 percent, conference and monograph literature 24 percent, report literature 10 percent, systems documents 4 percent, and miscellaneous 3 percent.

The entries are arranged alphabetically by first-named author. Most entries include a brief annotation. There are three indexes: a personal author index; a report number index; and a general subject index that includes the names of data bases, services, and systems, as well as subject topics. The authors decided to forego KWIC indexing, which, though cheaper, they thought would lack the advantages of a conventional index.

One of the most useful features of the bibliography is the selective indexing of the proceedings of professional meetings and conferences. But also in this area there are a few omissions; for example, there is no mention of the proceedings of the 1977 ALA/RASD/MARS program "Charging for Computer-Based Reference Services."

Articles from *Online*, *Database*, and *Online Review* are a significant part of the literature covered, but also included are relevant articles from many other U.S. and foreign journals. The report literature indexed includes ERIC documents, British Library Research and Development reports, NTIS documents, and other types of reports.

The bibliography does not claim to be exhaustive and it is not. Lacking are "fugitive" reports from on-line user groups, from ASIS midyear meetings, and other less widely distributed material. There seems to be little from data-base producers, though even the promotional brochures of the three major U.S. vendors are listed. These are not major shortcomings; it is a useful bibliography. Though expensive, it would certainly be very useful for students of library and information science and others with a serious interest in this field.—Sara D. Knapp, *State University of New York at Albany*.

New Trends in Documentation and Information. Proceedings of the 39th FID

Congress, University of Edinburgh, 25-28 September 1978. Ed. by Peter J. Taylor. FID Publication 5-6. London: Aslib, 1980. 519p. ISBN 0-85142-128-8.

Though there are brave words on the cover—"New trends in documentation and information"—the book, like all conference proceedings, is an accident. It is published between covers only because certain people met in a certain city (Edinburgh, Scotland) at a certain time (September 1978) under the auspices of a certain association (Federation Internationale des Documentation). While there, they presented papers purportedly about the subject announced on the cover. They also met in hallways, bars, restaurants, cafés, and other exotic places—where the real ideas were exchanged, but, alas, never reported. Custom requires us to report these occasions formally to serve an archival function. This is fine, but to review these sixty papers (fifty-six in English, four in French), opening addresses, chairperson's reviews, and rapporteurs' comments as though they form a coherent book—that indeed is another matter. The reviewer can only pick out a few personally idiosyncratic points to comment on.

There were five substantive sessions: (1) theoretical bases; (2) technology and applications; (3) classification and other systems; (4) organization and management; (5) professional development, manpower, and education. H. East and N. Belkin (Great Britain) have a perceptive paper called "Advanced Technology and the Developing Countries: The Growing Gap" (p.129-33). Griffith, also of Great Britain, has a good tutorial paper on computer simulation (p.137-44), though the ending is weak.

As might be expected, A. Neelemeghan (India) presents some stimulating ideas in "Information-for-Action Systems: Challenge to Classification and Indexing" (p.203-13). As he points out, ". . . information needs of planners and decision makers are not structured according to 'subjects' in the usual sense of the term" (p.206). He does not go much beyond this, nor do the papers in that particular session. A pity, for this area will become a major concern during the coming decade: how to design systems responsive to questions other than usual substantive queries.