

and electronic documents is the reality of the mid-1990s, but Meadows advocates more retrospective conversion to electronic format in order to expedite researchers' work. Paradoxically, information technology has made the researcher's task more difficult by increasing the amount of information, while at the same time making it more convenient for each researcher to access that information from a personal workstation. Meadows cautions that these electronic channels may further divide the information-rich from the information-poor, based upon the degree of access to information technology.

Many of the author's points are illustrated by tables with data on everything from "A Comparison of the Number of Articles Devoted to Astronomy/Space and Medicine at Two Epochs" (p. 73) to "The Existence of Bias in Refereeing Judgments" (p. 190). The concepts that Meadows presents are so interconnected and so often repeated that I found myself pondering a better organization of this work while I read it. Yet in the end, I realized that this is the point: the communication of research is a complex, chaotic process that is constantly changing. The choice of the term "Postscript" for what I first considered a conclusion or summary seemed odd, but it became clear from the closing sentence that the author's clever play on the word "post-script" (p. 242) was intentional. Meadows correctly observes the myriad questions raised by the electronic channels of communication now available to researchers, although he unfortunately does not seem to have any greater insight than the rest of us into how it will all turn out.—*Ellen McGrath* (emcgrath@acsu.buffalo.edu), *Head of Cataloging, Charles B. Sears Law Library, State University of New York at Buffalo*

***Budgeting for Information Access: Managing the Resource Budget for Absolute Access.*** Eds. Murray S. Martin and Milton T. Wolf. Chicago: American Library Association, 1998. 174p. \$30 (ISBN 0-8389-0691-5). LC98-10964.

In *Budgeting for Information Access*,

Martin and Wolf define access very broadly as "finding, looking at, or using any printed or electronic information" (p. 20). All types and formats of accessible collection-related materials, from print to electronic media, are discussed and examined in a series of short chapters. These include materials that are directly retrievable on-site in traditional and electronic formats and those received through interlibrary loan or document delivery services. Both editors are associated with *Technicalities*, a library journal and forum that represents the practitioner's point of view. Martin, who died in April 1998, was the author of the "Money Matters" column in *Technicalities* and many articles and books on budgets and library collections. Milton T. Wolf is the founding editor of *Technicalities* and is currently vice president for collection programs at the Center for Research Libraries.

Most of the chapters in *Budgeting for Information Access* contain practical information about collection-related concepts such as preservation, pricing, collection organization and maintenance, and budget implications. The "Notes" section in each chapter and the selective bibliography at the end of the book contain current and relevant source material, although the mention of some of these publications and studies is repeated too often throughout the text, as are material and charts from several of Martin's previous works.

The strength of this book lies in its discussion of budgeting and of the wide range of information alternatives available to libraries in the current marketplace. These alternatives include other collection-related areas—beyond print and electronic access—such as document delivery, interlibrary loan, resource sharing, and consortial and contractual relationships. This is important reading for acquisitions librarians whose functions overlap increasingly with areas outside their traditional domain, i.e., borrowing, leasing, and procurement for individuals, rather than purchasing materials to be cataloged and processed for the library collection. The thoughtful sections on developing a resource budget and on budget

scenarios cover an important and often overlooked area of library management.

*Budgeting for Information Access* is less successful in its discussion of electronic resources. Problems associated with ownership and preservation in the electronic arena, as well as the economic consequences of acquiring and licensing these materials, are all important issues that many librarians confront. This book's heavy-handed bias toward print materials can be justified in some circumstances; nevertheless, statements that compare and contrast print and electronic resources often are confusing and overly dramatic as indicated in the following statements: "Of particular importance is the difference between accessing a book and accessing electronic media . . . because the first is a simple matter of picking up something that has already been purchased and is therefore subject to the Doctrine of First Sale, while the second is like accessing a datafile that is not in the public domain" (p. 119) and "Unless providers and users can find more common ground, the unlimited promise of the new medium may diminish or vanish" (p. 88). In addition to commercially available products, which are emphasized in the text, there are thousands of government-maintained, content-rich Internet sites, accessible from the home or library, which provide information directly to the public. Electronic resources vary greatly in format, access, usage, content, and quality; in this text, their distinctions are sometimes neglected in favor of broad editorial statements on electronic resources in general. Peggy Johnson (1998) and Ross Atkinson (1998) deal with these issues more effectively in an effort to inform and improve library practice and theory. Discussions of copyright and contract licensing are scattered throughout the text; individual sections devoted to these issues, with specific guidelines, would be helpful.

Over the last decade, in an effort to meet users' information and research demands, libraries have attempted, within budgetary constraints, to provide access to a wide range of services and materials. Martin and Wolf's book is a good starting point for a better understanding of "ac-

cess" in an ever-changing library environment.—*Amy Dykeman (amy\_dykeman@solinet.edu), Library Products and Service Manager, Electronic Information Services, SOLINET, Atlanta, Ga.*

#### WORKS CITED

- Atkinson, Ross. 1998. Managing traditional materials in an online environment: some definitions and distinctions for a future collection management. *Library resources & technical services* 42: 7-20.
- Johnson, Peggy. 1998. Collections policies for electronic resources. *Technicalities* 18: 6ff.

***Practical Digital Libraries: Books, Bytes, and Bucks.*** Michael Lesk. San Francisco: Morgan Kaufman, 1997. 297p. \$49.95. (ISBN 1-55860-459-6). LC97-22069.

Michael Lesk is a computer scientist who has shown his interest and expertise in library-related issues in research for the Commission on Preservation and Access and who has dedicated his work to studying problems and solutions for the electronic library. He has written several respected works on preservation and technology; but this book, a natural extension of his interests and experience, is by far the most extensive and will reach the broadest audience.

*Practical Digital Libraries* is one of the first books to treat this subject so comprehensively and in such a readable style that students, educators, librarians, and computer scientists all will find it interesting and valuable. The subtitle "Books, Bytes, and Bucks" indicates the book's attention to the economics of digital library projects. This topic is critical in a discussion of changes in technology and how to mobilize, plan, and transfer library functions and resources to a digital environment.

Lesk provides a thorough review of what a digital library is and how to build one; the book can easily serve as a reader or textbook, and it would also be useful in a study of trends in scholarly communication. In the opening chapters, Lesk focuses on the technology of conversion and construction and the needed equipment and software. He examines techniques for storing and manipulating images and for