

and discussion that would place them in the larger context of library and information services during that period. With some exceptions (Shaw, Connell, and Meyer), discussion of the future is the weakest part of the book. In the fast-changing world of technical services, looking at the future from a 1990 perspective in a book published in 1996 is not particularly enlightening. Though the definitive history of technical services from 1965 to the present remains to be written, the future of technical services is the subject of a number of recent publications. Michael Gorman, Walt Crawford, and Arnold Hirshon have written eloquently on the future of library technical services.

Unfortunate shortcomings in the production of the publication also lessen its readability and its overall value as a collection of essays. Careless, possibly nonexistent, copy editing jolts the reader, as in "the trails of retrospective conversion gripped libraries" (p. 97) and "card catalogs and their in hospitality to change" (p.80). In Burger's essay, the section headings are listed incorrectly within the text (p. 106). The imprecise use of quotation marks, combined with Comaromi's use of both third and first person to refer to himself (p. 232-34), leaves the reader confused about who said what.

The twenty-two page index is haphazard, possibly the product of a computer without human supervision. The entry under "Bibliographic" is a muddle. The entries "AIDS virus" and "AZT drug" are just examples in a discussion of subject headings. The index mixes, with no distinction, casual mentions of a topic ("Wei T'o") and fuller discussions ("Authority Control"). Two references appear under "Superimposition," both in the Jones article, but the articles by Burger and by Soper also include discussion of that subject. There is a curious tendency to index adjectives ("Bibliographic," "Hispanic," and "Nuclear") as well as mysterious phrases ("Copious strips" and "Uneasy alliance"). Readers of this book will appreciate an index of acronyms and initialisms, and the index does, in fact, provide one with its careful and consistent cross reference sys-

tem.—Margaret Rohdy, *University of Pennsylvania Libraries.*

***Museum Librarianship: A Guide to the Provision and Management of Information Services.*** By Esther Green Bierbaum. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1994. 190p. \$38.50 (ISBN 0-89950-971-1).

Esther Green Bierbaum's *Museum Librarianship* is a succinct and highly readable introduction to "the library in the museum and how it supports what goes on in the museum: acquiring and studying objects, preparing exhibits, developing programs, and conducting research" (p. 1). Intended for the small museum that is setting up a library from scratch, this book, nonetheless, provides a wealth of information for those managing, or seeking to enlarge or enhance, existing library collections and services in a museum environment.

Arranged in seven chapters, this book carefully leads the reader through each component of a sound library program in a logical and incremental fashion. In fact, the concluding summary of each chapter's content serves as a bridge to the topic covered in the following chapter. Chapter 1 introduces the relationship between libraries, museums, and archives; outlines a number of justifications for establishing a library within a museum; and then demonstrates how statements of mission, goals, and objectives work together to define the library's sphere of action. Chapter 2 explores collection development policies and procedures, and then discusses technical services activities required to achieve control over the collection. Chapter 3 takes a realistic look at the space, furniture, and equipment needs of a small library while keeping issues of scaling up for larger libraries in mind. Chapter 4 examines the personnel, management, and budgetary aspects of starting up and running the library. Bierbaum's consideration of the volunteer's role in a successfully managed small museum library is particularly cogent. Chapter 5 suggests several kinds of information services that can be provided by the library, although a discussion of the role of fees and fee-

based services in the library would have been welcome here. Chapter 6 examines the ways in which technology, in a variety of mechanical and electronic forms, can be successfully utilized in even the smallest operation to increase efficiency and service. The final chapter takes a broad look at the library as a partner with its museum in the dynamic flow and interpretation of information both within the museum and beyond it: in the community and the wider information universe.

Several appendixes provide more detailed information about related organizations and such aspects of technical services as "Structuring Bibliographic Records According to ISBD/AACR2 Standards," and "Standard Filing Rules." The volume concludes with a bibliography of additional readings in each of the topical areas covered in the chapters. Given the "how-to" nature of this volume, however, the references to further readings would have been more effective if they had been annotated and incorporated into each chapter, rather than listed at the end of the book.

There is much to applaud in this book. To attempt to organize and present the full range of library principles to the uninitiated, while simultaneously demonstrating the applicability of those principles in the museum environment, is no small task, and Bierbaum largely succeeds. On occasion, however, Bierbaum's points seem out of place. For example, "Conservation and Preservation" issues are included in the chapter on information services (chapter 5); I would have expected to find these concerns raised as part of the outline of collection management activities outlined in chapter 2. Similarly, Bierbaum's discussion of the placement of the library within the museum's reporting structure comes rather late in the book—as part of a general discussion of management issues in the museum library (chapter 4); it would have been more useful to consider the organizational placement of the library as part of its mission, objectives, and goals in the first chapter.

Although the many details and helpful hints found throughout demonstrate that

Bierbaum's book is based on numerous site visits and careful observation in museum libraries, this does not appear to be a work informed by extensive practice in the field. The most noticeable limitation of the book, in this regard, is the absence of any sustained discussion of the issues of authority and mandate for the library. For the library to be an effective and integral part of the museum organization it must have a clear statement of its scope and authority, be placed on the organizational chart so as to secure access to resources and support, and have critical policies and procedures (such as collection development and de-accessioning procedures) approved and actively supported by the governing body. While some of these political dynamics are alluded to, the book does a disservice to its intended audience by not engaging the practical concerns that necessarily underlie a dynamic and effective library program more thoroughly.

A second limitation of this book is, unfortunately, the result of its strength. Bierbaum admirably explicates the efficacy of library science techniques in a museum environment. The language and the examples used throughout the work reference "traditional" library bibliographic materials and the issues associated with their management and use; the bibliography almost exclusively cites work drawn from the library literature. Although Bierbaum does consider the various kinds of nonbibliographic (archival, manuscript, and ephemeral) materials that museums have in their care, her understanding of the administration of these materials is less well informed. In Bierbaum's model, materials that come with and document artifacts in the collections should remain under the care of the registrar; archival materials acquired from other sources whose subject lies within the scope of the institution's collections should be maintained by an appropriate curator; and the museum's own institutional records should fall under the care of an archivist or archival consultant (pp. 21–22). While these distinctions are useful conceptually and represent the best case scenario, the reality in many small

museums is that the library soon finds itself functioning as the site of curatorship for much if not all of the museum's non-artifactual collections, whether related to particular artifacts or not, and serving as the institutional archives. It is problematic to insist so exclusively on the application of principles drawn from librarianship in an environment that could benefit equally well from the application of principles and practice drawn from other information management paradigms. To wit, Bierbaum's book should be supplemented by such works as Elizabeth Yakel's *Starting an Archives* (Society of American Archivists, 1994), and William A. Deiss' *Museum Archives: An Introduction* (Society of American Archivists, 1983), two particularly useful Society of American Archivists publications.

In the final analysis, I find Bierbaum's desire to create a traditional "library" in the midst of a museum troubling and potentially misguided. It is my sense that many museum professionals are beginning to see the virtue in collapsing aspects of library, archival/manuscript, and artifactual management to achieve integrated control over, and access to, the entire range of institutional assets. This shift in the management paradigm is consistent with, and perhaps made possible, by the emergence of open systems technology, an integrated MARC format, and an increasingly networked and transparent information universe that renders increasingly irrelevant our conventional distinctions between bibliographic and nonbibliographic information, and between archival and artifactual collections.

By proposing the establishment of a "library" as a carefully defined set of collections distinct from other holdings, Bierbaum is unfortunately advocating a luxury few museums of any size can afford, and a model that many museums will find increasingly out of step with their information management needs. If a museum looking to establish a library is eager, as Bierbaum correctly argues they should be, to create a dynamic information center that is integral to the institution's activities, mission, and goals, this book will be useful to the extent that its reader can

synthesize it with other works to create a truly integrated approach to collections management in a museum environment—Luke J. Gilliland-Swetland, *Japanese American National Museum*.

**Video Acquisitions and Cataloging: A Handbook.** By James C. Scholtz. Greenwood Library Management Collection. Westport Conn.: Greenwood, 1995. 184p. \$55 (ISBN 0-313-29345-7). LC 95-7536.

While maps and sound recordings have had a place in libraries for a long time, it was not until the 1960s and 1970s that various types of other materials found a home in library collections. Some of these media, e.g., filmstrips, motion picture loops, and sound slides, have disappeared from the marketplace. Videos, however, have experienced continuous growth in circulation statistics and assumed increasing importance in library collections.

With this persistent and growing interest in, and use of, videos by the library user, it is surprising that so few books have been published to help librarians establish, acquire, catalog, process, circulate, shelve, and care for video collections. Only three other books on the management of video collections, in addition to the author's books, are included in the selected bibliography at the end of this work. Librarians need many resources to help them make competent decisions about the many aspects of managing video collections. Therefore, a new book about videos in libraries deserves attention and careful consideration.

In 1989 James C. Scholtz published *Developing and Maintaining Video Collections in Libraries* (ABC-Clio), a practical, useful handbook that covered many aspects of videos as part of library collections. In 1991 Scholtz published *Video Policies and Procedures for Libraries* (ABC-Clio), a work in which he discusses collection development, circulation, copyright, and intellectual freedom issues and provides sample policy statements from various libraries. In this latest work, *Video Acquisitions and Cataloging: A Handbook*, he deals with another part of the larger topic. These three books could