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## The Literature of American Library History, 2003–2005

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# The Literature of American Library History, 2003–2005

## **Abstract**

A number of years have elapsed since publication of the last essay of this sort, so this one will cover three years of historical writings on American librarianship, 2003–5, instead of the usual two. We will have to see whether this new method becomes the norm or will ultimately be considered an aberration from the traditional approach. I do know that several years ago Donald G. Davis, Jr., and Michael Harris covered three years (1971–73) in their essay, and we all survived the experience.

In preparing this essay I discovered that when another year of coverage is added the volume of writings to cover also grows impressively. A conservative estimate places the number of books and articles published in the years under review at more than two hundred items. Needless to say, I will be selective and not review each and every item; otherwise, this essay would needlessly tax the patience of both the reader and the author!

## **Disciplines**

Library and Information Science

## **Comments**

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## The Literature of American Library History, 2003-2005

Edward A. Goedeken

When I worked at the library, my favorite job  
was opening up in the morning. Strolling toward  
the big, wooden doors I felt like the manager  
in a store of ideas.

Ron Koertge, "Summer, 1962" in *Fever: Poems*

I love libraries, but I will be damned if I will  
ever walk into a "Resource Center".

Richard Needham

### **Introduction**

A number of years have elapsed since publication of the last essay of this sort, so this one will cover three years of historical writings on American librarianship, instead of the usual two. We will have to see whether this new method becomes the norm, or will ultimately be considered an aberration from the traditional approach. I do know that several years ago, Donald G. Davis, Jr. and Michael Harris covered three years (1971-1973) for their essay and we all survived the experience.

In preparing this essay, I also discovered that when another year of coverage is added, the volume of writings to cover also grows impressively. A conservative estimate places the number of books and articles published in the years under review more than 200 items. Needless to say, I will be selective and not review each and every item; otherwise this essay would needlessly tax the patience of both the reader and the author!

### **Sources and Historiography**

In 2003 appeared two significant reference sources for library historians. Donald G. Davis, Jr. produced the second supplement to the foundational Dictionary of American Library Biography (DALB) continuing the tradition of this exceptional biographical source begun in 1978 by

George Bobinksi, Jesse Shera, and Bohdan Wynar, and followed in 1990 by Wayne Weigand's first supplement. The new supplement contains essays for 77 new subjects, and when combined with the first two editions, now covers 430 prominent librarians, library educators, or those associated with the field of librarianship in some fashion. Especially useful is the index, which includes references to biographical entries in all three editions of the DALB. (1) Complementing Davis' volume is Marilyn Miller's valuable edited work entitled Pioneers and Leaders in Library Services to Youth. (2) If some of Miller's essays look familiar, they should, since 40 of the 97 essays in this collection first appeared in various editions of the DALB. But more than half are brand-new, yet retain the look and feel of the DALB essays in the quality of the writing and the emphasis on making sure that primary sources—where available—are noted. Davis and Miller have provided us with two high quality biographical reference sources which will greatly expand current knowledge of our profession's leaders and their contributions to the growth of American librarianship.

John Y. Cole, who has forgotten more than most of us will ever know about the history of the Library of Congress, has joined with another prominent LC scholar—Jane Aikin, and together they have edited an unprecedented reference volume devoted solely to the Library of Congress. Cole and Aikin, among others, created a number of lengthy topical essays that treat specific aspects of the LC including chapters on its history, the Copyright Office, the Congressional Research Service, as well as thoughtful considerations of the Library of Congress and its relationship to Congress or the American librarianship. Beyond these contributions are smaller entries devoted to a variety of topics, including biographical essays on the Librarians of Congress. Given the size of the Library of Congress, readers could easily quibble about what was left out of a one-volume reference work, but the fact remains that the Cole-Aikin volume is most valuable tool we have that plumbs the complex world of our great national library. (3)

Moving from sources to historiography, Richard Krzys crafted a rather interesting chapter entitled "Library Historiography" for the second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*. Kryys seeks to address both the question of what is library history and how does one go about writing and researching it. He cites seminal works in library history such as Holley's biography of *Charles Evans* (1963), as well as Sidney Ditzion's classic *Arsenals of a Democratic Culture* (1947) and Shera's *Foundations of the Public Library* (1949) among others. Krzys surveys the history of library histories, beginning with the ancient world and traveling up through the centuries to the middle of the last one, noting where

prominent writers had included library history in their works. Krzys sometimes appears to not be sure whether he writing about library historiography or about the broader topic of general historiography, but his essay is still worth examining because I have never seen anything quite like it. Nor should I forget to note Matthew Battles' smartly written overview of library history that appeared in 2003. His text can be a bit quirky at times, but overall certainly a welcome addition to the regrettably short shelf of histories of libraries available to us. (4)

Other historiographical studies include Dalton and Charnigo's "Historians and Their Information Sources," published in the *College & Research Libraries*. The authors revisit Dalton's well-known 1981 investigation of how historians do their research. They conclude in the new study that for the most part historians continue to rely on print sources for much of their information, but historians have also welcomed the advent of the new electronic indexes and have readily incorporated these tools into their research methodology. (5) Goedeken and Wertheimer each took an opportunity to scrutinize the contents of our flagship journal, *Libraries & Culture (L&C)*. Goedeken examined the literature reviews that have appeared over the years (of which the current essay is the latest) in either *L&C* or its predecessor, the *Journal of Library History (JLH)*. (6) And both Goedeken and Wertheimer spent some time investigating various bibliometric aspects of *JLH/L&C*. (7) It might prove interesting to have someone conduct a similar study of our British counterpart, *Library History* and see how that journal compares with the American publication.

Jean-Pierre V.M. Hérubel has produced a series of extended book reviews for *L&C* over the years. A couple of recent ones deserve attention because of his ability to set our history within the larger historiographical context. (8) Wiley Williams performed a useful service for those interested in North Carolina library history by compiling an extensive bibliography, which is available in print and online. Forty-nine other states deserve similar attention! (9) Lawrence McCrank delves into the complex relationship between the historical profession and the discipline of information science, its history, and how it has influenced historical scholarship. (10)

In addition to the materials mentioned above, it is important that I note some of the recent works on general historiography. Beverley Southgate, author of a valuable survey of historiography, has produced an easy-to-understand overview of the historiographical theory. (11) Along with Southgate, readers will also benefit from a look at books by Keith Jenkins and Norman Wilson that provide concise overviews of major

historiographical issues. (12) The impact of postmodernist thought on the craft of history is treated in two new books by Thompson and Brown. (13) Finally, two recent well-written studies of the philosophy of history will reward close reading. (14) All of us can learn something from these explications of the larger historiographical framework within which we can set our own specialized studies.

### **Special, Private, and Subscription Libraries**

There are been a small, and heartening, increase of writings devoted to the specialized aspects of librarianship dealt with in this section. Indeed, although small compared to work done on public or academic libraries, the heretofore rather forgotten topic of subscription libraries has received a minor recrudescence of solid scholarship that is noteworthy.

One of the more impressive pieces to appear recently is Tom Glynn's masterful history of the New York Society Library. Founded in 1754 when New York was still a colony, and devoted to educating the entire community, Glynn traces its fortunes during the next eighty years as republican ideals took root in the country. This is a well-researched article, drawn from Glynn's dissertation research, and represents a careful and attention application of important primary and secondary works. (15) Susanna Ashton recounts the fascinating story of the efforts of Stephen Burroughs, a late eighteenth-century petty criminal, who sought to establish a social library in Bridgehampton, New York. Burroughs wrote a famous memoir of his experiences that appeared in 1798, which Ashton uses to explore the reading habits of Burrough's community and the struggles he had with those who questioned his morality and qualifications to select appropriate reading material. (16)

The Providence Athenaeum has received its due as one of this nation's oldest social libraries. Founded in 1753 the citizens in Providence, Rhode Island saw fit to found the Providence Library Company, which eventually became the Providence Athenaeum in 1836. Jane Lancaster traces the history this august institution, which is the fourth-oldest surviving membership library in the United States. On a much smaller scale, but still quite impressive is Michael Baenen's study of the Portsmouth, New Hampshire Athenaeum. Published in the *New England Quarterly*, which has proven to be a good source for article dealing with colonial and early American library history, Baenen's well-researched essay smoothly surveys the history of this prominent social library, founded in 1817. It is heartening

to see well-crafted library history show up in mainstream historical journals!  
(17)

Private libraries are usually the result of active book collectors, which is again the case here. San Francisco Adolph Sutro's career as an avid bookman is treated by Russ Davidson in a recent article in the *California State Library Foundation Bulletin*. Sutro's personal library exceeded 100,000 volumes by the end of the nineteenth century, and after his death in 1898 became a branch of the California State Library. Unfortunately a great deal of Sutro's library did not survive the 1906 earthquake and fires, and he was never able to construct a building of his own with an endowment for maintenance and his library languished with benign neglect. (18) A happier fate has befallen the personal collection of the New York industrial magnate, Robert Leighton Stuart (1806-1882). As recounted by Paul Sternberger, Stuart made his money as a sugar refiner and then spent large sums building homes and collecting art and books. His widow donated his arts and books to the Lenox Library, which became the basis for the New York Public Library. During World War II Stuart's books were transferred to the New York Historical Society where they have remained. (19) Finally Heléna Tóth explores Mary Lowell Putnam's avid interest in both books and reading and how her intellectual pursuits reflected that of an educated woman in mid-nineteenth century Boston. (20) All three articles are solid contributions to the steadily growing literature on the art of book collecting in America. When one realizes that there were hundreds of wealthy—and not so wealthy—book collectors actively building their own private libraries, each reflecting their own specific view of what was important to acquire, we can see that we still have a great deal to learn about what cultural forces influenced the collecting habits of these intrepid individuals.

As usual, there are a host of small—and not so small—contributions toward the history of special libraries. When one realizes that if a library is not academic, and not public, then it more than likely falls under the rubric of a “special” library, it is then not surprising that the subjects under consideration can be many and varied. Thus what follows covers the gamut from law libraries to prison libraries to art libraries to presidential libraries and all points in between.

In no particular order, let us start with the history of prison libraries. Melvin Bashore investigates the unexplored territory of the (no pun intended) Utah Territorial Penitentiary Library in his well researched essay. Bashore examines both the creation of the library and the reading habits of the inmates, who were well represented by polygamists who had run afoul of the laws that existed against such moral turpitude. Indeed the prison had

been built in the 1850s to cope with the large number of polygamists who were arrested during those years in an effort by the local government to crush this abhorrent (at least in the eyes of the Christians) behavior. In his survey of prison librarianship, Mike Geary briefly reviews the history of these special libraries, but most of his essay is devoted to the more recent past. And the venerable Donald Krummel surveys the most recent twenty years of *Notes*, the core journal for music librarians. This is Krummel's third such review, having done the same thing for the first and second twenty years of that journal. (21)

Law libraries and librarianship is the subject of two recent offerings. Renee Rastorfer, whose nicely wrought essay on Thomas Dabagh and the beginnings of the UCLA Law Library won a student competition sponsored by the American Association of Law Libraries and LexisNexis is complemented by Cynthia Fellows' broadly conceived history of law libraries in Alaska. (22) Documents librarianship in Indiana is the focus of Lou Malcomb's carefully written article. Malcomb traces the University of Indiana's role as a depository library from its inception the late nineteenth century. For those interested in the history of children's literature, Leslie Barban provides a quick tour of the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature housed at the University of Florida, Gainesville. (23)

Another quite useful and well-documented history is that of David Hovde and John Fritch, who trace the history of a small library, supported by the Quakers and dedicated to expanding the literary development of working men in Tippecanoe County in northwestern Indiana. Hovde and Fritch carefully crafted a nice history of that unique library, which functioned happily during the middle of the nineteenth century. State historical societies have seldom received the attention they deserve, and this oversight is at least partially corrected with the impressive article produced by Amanda Laugesen that explores the development of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin Library. There remain many more historical societies meriting attention! (24) Worel and Rethlefsen seek to replicate the reference sources that were available to medical librarians during the 1920s in an article that should take an award for being quite different from the usual historical study of medical librarianship that we often see. (25)

Benjamin Hufbauer gallops across the country in his brisk survey of presidential libraries. While some of the more recent presidential libraries merit only a paragraph, Hufbauer spends a bit more time with the Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman libraries. Hufbauer's chapter is part of a larger collection of essays on the American presidency, so we should be thankful that thought at all was given to these important cultural institutions!

Mr. Smithson, after whom the Smithsonian institution is named, is the beneficiary of an extensively researched new book by Nina Burleigh that treats his fascinating relationship with President John Quincy Adams, in what has to be one of the most intriguing historical studies of that great cultural icon I have seen in a while. (26)

Several book-length treatments of well-known special libraries round out this section. Two books celebrating the remarkable collections of the Huntington Library appeared in 2003 and 2004, both published by the Huntington. (27) The Grolier Club published its own glossy history, which includes a short history of the Club by Eric Holzenberg. Neville Thompson authored a nice history of the Winterthur Library, located on the expansive estate of the DuPont family in Delaware, and Claudia Funke enlightens us with a smartly written summary of how the great Avery Architecture library at Columbia got its start. One should also note two other book length treatments: one surveying the history of Harvard College's incredible Judaica collection, and the other detailing the impressive Beinecke Library at Yale. (28) All these books are for the most part heavy on pictures and light on history, but they remain useful sources for anyone investigating America's major cultural institutions.

Decades ago library historians spent a great deal of time discussing social and subscription libraries and their role as precursors to the modern public library. I hope Tom Glynn's essay, as a well-done recent example, indicates that a new generation of historians is willing to reexamine how those early libraries reflected the reading interests of Americans in the antebellum era. Moreover, as Wayne A. Wiegand has repeatedly urged, we need to flip our perspective from our traditional "life of the user in the library" to the "library in the life of the user." (29) In so doing we will open up new vistas in how we analyze our cherished library culture.

## **Public Libraries**

With nearly 10,000 of them scattered throughout the land, it should not be surprising that the section on public libraries is often the longest of all the categories included in this review. In order to keep things manageable, I will try to be as succinct, yet as informative, as possible.

Let's start with an outstanding new work on public libraries in World War II by Patti Clayton Becker that evolved from her 2002 dissertation. Blending solid research in primary and secondary sources, Becker recounts the actions of the American Library Association and the public library community as they grappled with the impact of a major world war. This is

good history, told well, and buttressed by solid digging in the archives. I believe it could serve as a valuable model for future large-scale studies. (30) Although certainly not new, it was still exciting to see that the University of Wisconsin Press had reissued Dee Garrison's classic 1979 *Apostles of Culture: The Public Librarian and American Society, 1876-1920* with an outstanding new forward by Christine Pawley. Pawley's essay helps set Garrison's work within the framework of contemporary historiography and by itself makes acquiring the new printing worthwhile for a new generation of library historians. Kudos to James Dankey and Wayne Wiegand for republishing the Garrison book in their series *Print Culture History in Modern America!* (31)

The state of Iowa has over 500 public libraries, which is a lot for a state with relatively small population. John Witt traveled the state to compile his *Carnegie Libraries of Iowa* which contains thumbnail sketches of dozens of community libraries that received funding from Carnegie. Witt does not provide any sources, which is unfortunate, but his picture-filled tome is still useful for what information it contains. (32) Iowa libraries are also the subject of interesting digital project directed by Christine Pawley and James Elmborg that seeks to chart the history of these libraries by creating an online library of images and other documentary and statistical information. In so doing they hope to promote an interest in library history to the web-savvy generation that is now coming to the fore. (33) Finally, Daniel Goldstein has crafted a well-researched essay on Iowa librarianship during the years from 1890-1940 and explores the interaction of three significant Iowa institutions during this period: the Iowa Library Commission, the Iowa Library Association, and the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs. All three groups were concerned about combating the social vices of the era and saw the public library as an excellent place for the promotion of good manners and morals. (34)

Other general, shorter histories merit attention. The inestimable Wayne Wiegand shares a portion of his ongoing book-length study of five Midwestern libraries and how their decisions whether or not to purchase controversial books reflects the Gramscian concept of cultural hegemony and the role public libraries play in determining what reading the community has access to. As usual Wiegand's writing is clear, insightful, and presents theoretical applications to our historiography that we haven't thought of, but should. Of equal quality is Charles Johanningsmeier's remarkable exploration of the popularity of periodicals in public libraries during the latter part of the nineteenth century. His research reveals that it is quite likely that popular magazines and newspapers were more heavily read than

we might suppose, although library administrators often downplayed their importance and promoted books for “good reading” instead. This is an exceedingly important article and one that deserves wide distribution! (35)

As Charles Seavey shows, even during the Great Depression new public libraries were founded in nearly every state. Seavey collected data on several thousand libraries from their founding in 1800 through 1980. His research shows that even during the hard times of the 1930s several states found the resources—usually through local taxes—to establish public libraries where none had existed before. Another article focusing on the same period, recounts the fascinating story of the Kern County Free Library in California efforts in 1939 to ban Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*. Marci Lingo artfully blends literary and library historical scholarship to tell her tale of censorship, politics, and reading habits in a rural California community buffeted by the twin forces of depression and immigration. Lingo’s piece is quite impressive and one that could spur similar levels of investigation in other communities during the period. Also noteworthy is Bill Crowley’s sprightly historical account of the readers’ advisory service. (36)

In addition to the encyclopedia mentioned earlier, the Library of Congress was the subject of three essays. The first by John Cole, who edited the encyclopedia and is our foremost expert on history of that venerable library, represents a brief, but thorough, overview of its history in a piece for the Donald G. Davis, Jr. festschrift. Cole has written all this before, but it is handy to have his deep knowledge distilled into just a few pages. Gregory Harness, who is the Senate Librarian, reveals the Library from its earliest years in his short essay, which discusses a project undertaken in 1999 by his office to acquire copies of some of the original titles the Library received as a result of purchasing Jefferson’s personal library in 1815. The third article is quite interesting and compares the 1783 library proposed by James Madison with the list of titles chosen to start the nascent Library of Congress in 1800. Glynn and Hagensick analyze the two lists and point out that the sensibilities of the post-Revolutionary period changed what was considered important works for a new congressional library. Fascinating stuff, and certainly worth a look! (37)

There are a number of publications this time that focus on specific libraries, and we now turn to looking at them. The Seattle Public Library has generated a great deal of press in recent years with its new building which opened in 2004, designed by famed architect Rem Koolhaas. Although John Douglas Marshall’s history of the Seattle library was published in 2004 before the new building was completed, his book is a well-written and richly illustrated account of the period leading up to when

the new construction would begin. Beginning in the 1860s Marshall mixes primary and secondary sources to trace the rise of the small town library from a single unimpressive building along a dirt street to its present impressive structure in downtown Seattle. In a much more focused essay, Elinor Appel examines the history of the Seattle Public Library's municipal reference service, which specialized in providing personal reference and referral services to the Seattle community for decades. (38)

Recent interest in the history of Ohio public libraries has generated three new books. Like the Marshall book noted above, John Fleischman has delved into the pertinent primary and secondary sources that undergird the growth of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Replete with numerous photos, the Fleischman book covers 150 years of this major Midwestern library whose early years saw directors of such national prominence as William Frederick Poole among others. Both the Marshall and the Fleischman books provide pretty much a straightforward chronological narrative with little notice of the larger historiographical context, but I still value them as useful texts for a broader synthesis yet to come. Two other books that display a broader view of Ohio librarianship include Melinda Hill's edited collection of essays—some of which are quite good—and Mary Ellen Armentrout's delightful account of the various Carnegie libraries and how they came to be. Armentrout's book is much like the one Witt wrote on Iowa libraries, which I noted above. But in her introduction Armentrout also provides a quite useful summary of how Carnegie went about selecting who would and would not get his money. (39) One more book-length treatment should be mentioned and that is Helen Snow's relatively brief (less than 80 pages) history of the Greensboro, North Carolina, Public Library. Snow consults an impressive number of primary sources, and notes that she borrowed microfilm of the Carnegie Corporation correspondence to fill out the details of the library's original request. Snow concludes her sources cited section with some recommendations from the esteemed library historian, James V. Carmichael, Jr. of UNC-Greensboro library school! (40)

A host of smaller studies appeared during our period under review, and given space limitations will probably not receive the attention they deserve. Nevertheless, here we go. Suzanne Stauffer authored an impressive article on the development of public libraries in Utah and the impact that the Mormon belief in polygamy had on the early creation of these libraries, and how the dominant secular culture eventually won out by the early twentieth century. (41) Grace-Ellen McCrann summarizes the history of the Boston Public Library and provides thumbnail sketches of

some of the major players such as Vattemare, Quincy, Astor, Everett, and Ticknor. She does not for the most part accept Harris' theory that the founding father's were authoritarian-elitists, but argues that these men were motivated by humanitarian and educational ideals. (42)

State-sponsored library publications were the source of a number of recent articles. I also noticed that most of these journals started around the same time in the 1930s. I wonder what the impetus was for the founding of these state library publications? Anyway, Oliver Pollak recounts the history of the Seward, Nebraska Public Library in a detail-filled essay, which seems to rely on meeting minutes, although he does not cite specifics. Karin Bleyker tackles the history of the Central Mississippi Library Council and at least refers to consulting council minutes for some of her information. A bit better is Robert Black's tightly constructed history of public library cooperation in Arkansas, which concludes with a nice—though limited—mix of primary and secondary sources. Public libraries in Louisiana receive their due with Florence Jumonville's well-written account of Essae Culver, who was the state's first State Librarian. Similarly, Cheryl Gunselman crafts a dual biography of Cornelia Marvin and Mary Frances Isom, both women instrumental in establishing effective library service in Oregon in the first decades of the twentieth century. Finally, Delbert Terry puts the spotlight on the historical background to the establishment and growth of the Natchitoches Parish Library, but provides no sources. The Jumonville and Gunselman essays come from W. Boyd Rayward's recent edited collection of outstanding biographical essays on pioneers in our profession. I will be noting these throughout this review in the appropriate sections. (43)

Over the years *Kentucky Libraries* has been a consistent forum for short, but generally well done historical essays. Jonathan Jeffrey, who has written a number of pieces in the past, puts forth three new ones this time around. These are all nicely done and worth a look, especially for anyone interested in the history of Kentucky libraries. For those with solid German language skills, Gernot Gabel has authored an article on the history of the Chicago Public Library in the German language library science journal *BuB: Forum für Bibliothek und Information*. (44)

I will place the few items relating to school libraries here, because their goals and challenges often have been closely related to those of public libraries. Given that there are nearly 100,000 school libraries and media centers in this country, their history is woefully neglected by our profession! Nevertheless, let us start with an excellent contribution on the active library career of Effie Louise Power written by Kimball, Jenkins, and Hearne. This is a fine historical effort and bears reading. Lisa Lindell discusses the

history of South Dakota school libraries, and I must say I haven't seen such an impressive work on this topic in a long time. Her essay surveys the status of school libraries on that barren plain in the late nineteenth century, going into the paucity of books available as well as what the students read and what school administrators did to remedy the appalling lack of texts. This is a very good essay and certainly one that merits reading. Along those same lines, Lisa Lindell describes in able fashion the thriving book culture that existed in South Dakota during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Also noteworthy is an unusual article on high school club libraries that thrived in Oklahoma high schools for over thirty years after World War II. This is a topic that I have never seen explored before and certainly merits more attention. (45) Indeed, the whole field of school library history is pretty much wide open and ready for investigation!

The first chapter of Natalie Ziarnik's book on school and public libraries represents a nicely crafted overview beginning with the Progressive Era in the late nineteenth century and running up to the current period. In less than twenty pages Ziarnik covers a lot of territory, pointing out the special contributions of prominent individuals such as Anne Carroll Moore, and summarizing a broad swath of history within just a few pages. A much more focused and less scholarly effort is made by Jackie White and her brief history of school libraries in Kentucky. I will conclude this brief section on school libraries by mentioning two additional items. First, I must point to an outstanding piece by Kester and Jones that traces the remarkable career of Frances Henne, who was instrumental in establishing standards for school libraries in this country. Secondly, Francis Roscello briefly surveys the larger history of standards for school libraries beginning in the early twentieth century. Given that this nation hosts tens of thousands of school libraries, it is clear that there is so much more that needs to be done before we can understand their impact on the intellectual development of America's youth. (46)

Finally, I want to point to a couple of recent articles that treat the history of public libraries from a little bit different standpoint. Susan Burke and Eva Martin have written a fascinating study that traces state case law as applied to libraries revealing that our seemingly benign institution has often been an integral part of legal proceedings between adversaries. John Gathegi takes a narrower look at the legal background to the public library as a public forum and discusses how the library should or should not be considered different public space than more "traditional" public forums such as streets, sidewalks or parks. (47)

## Academic Libraries

Over 4,000 academic institutions—both two and four year, public and private—are busily educating young people in the United States as the new century begins. This number certainly pales in comparison to public and school libraries. Yet despite their limited number, academic institutions play a significant role in American culture and society and the history of their libraries represents an important aspect of our work. This time around we have a singularly good book by Matthew Battles on the history of Widener library. Battles, who has also written a tightly constructed history of libraries, worked in Harvard's Houghton rare book library, and writes from the perspective of someone who lived and worked within this great library's walls. Relying on primary sources from the Widener archives as well as other secondary sources, Battles tells the Widener story from many angles. This is an excellent history of an important library and one that merits reading. (48)

So, that covers the one book about a single academic library that appeared this time around. We'll now turn to some broad-based surveys and then to more specific library-oriented pieces. Sharon Weiner provides a quick tour of the historical literature relating to academic libraries published between 1980 and 2003 in her 2005 essay. Citing such established authors as Dain, Shiflett, and Wiegand, Weiner covers the highlights in a dozen pages. She admits to focusing on general approaches to this historiography, so many of the more specialized treatments dealing with specific libraries are not included. Although relatively brief, Weiner's article is a good place for the novice library historian to start. (49)

Colin Steele spends some time revisiting the recommendations of Fremont Rider and his 1944 classic *The Scholar and the Future of the Research Library* in a perceptive article that appeared in the *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*. Rider's concerns about the growth of academic libraries fostered a great deal of concern among academic librarians who feared that his predictions of library collections doubling every sixteen years. As things turned out, our biggest libraries haven't grown as fast as he feared, but the challenges of managing their growth remain a current concern. Rider firmly believed that microforms would be the solution for the space crunch. That, thankfully, hasn't turned out to be the solution either. Steele's essay is a nice summary of Rider, his views, and how all this drama has played out over the past few decades. Kanwal Ameen takes a longer view of how library collections have grown, taking his investigation back to the ancient world. His summary (he takes has four

pages!) of collection development theories, especially during the twentieth century are food for thought, although there isn't much depth of analysis here. Jon Hufford provides a similarly brief treatment of information literacy and the impact of Louis Shores and his ideas for the creation of a "library-college." (50)

By far the best of the articles devoted to a specific academic library is the endlessly fascinating tale of the University of Illinois library in the early twentieth century. Winton Solberg kept me riveted with his sparkling account of the administrative careers of Katherine Sharp, Francis Drury, and Phineas Windsor, all of whom worked for the incredibly energetic Edmund Janes James, who ran the University of Illinois with an astonishingly micromanaging hand from 1904-1920. This is history at its best and Solberg should be congratulated for crafting a narrative that is well-researched, well-written, and exceedingly informative. If you haven't taken a look at this essay yet, please find a moment to do so! (51)

Other contributions of interest include Barry Gray's historical explication of the development of the library at Allegheny College, which housed many of the books originally owned by Benjamin Franklin. Gray's essay appeared in *Library History*, which is nice since not a great deal of American library history finds its way into that august historical journal. Ursula Zyzik provides a useful overview of how the library at Saint Xavier University came to be. Finally, Blankenship and Fleming summarize the recent history of library assessment at the University of Northern Colorado. (52)

## **Library Associations**

Where would we be without our various library associations? Although the American Library Association has received its share of attention over the years, there also exist an abundance of international, state and local associations that promote librarians and library services. This time we can appreciate a book-length collection of essays edited by Alma Dawson and the indefatigable Florence Jumonville that trace the last seventy-five years of the Louisiana Library Association (LLA). Relying on both primary and secondary sources this useful collection surveys any and all aspects of this prominent state association from its inception in 1920 through the end of the century. This same thing should and could be done for the other 49 state library associations. The challenges the LLA faced during the civil rights movement is explored in a well-written and well-researched piece by Steven Harris. Harris' essay sets the responses of the

state association within the larger context of what the national association was doing and in so doing adds another important chapter to the growing narrative about southern librarianship during this tempestuous period. Sandra Treadway provides a nice overview—though with little documentation—of the history of the Virginia Library Association and its state library. (53)

Over the years the Medical Library Association has often published articles about its history. These essays have sometimes been well supported with primary documentation, sometimes not. Nevertheless, the MLA has probably been the most consistently sensitive to its historical past as any of the smaller more specialized associations. In 2003 the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* published a series of articles celebrating the silver anniversary of the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries. Susan Jacobson kicks off this special issue with an overview of the association, followed by additional contributions covering various aspects of the AAHSL's past. For someone interested in more closely examining the development of health librarianship in the United States during the last quarter of the twentieth century, this collection of writings could provide a useful foundation for further research. (54)

Of course, our flagship organization, the American Library Association, receives its share of historical assessment this time around. The three pieces under discussion run the gamut from autobiography to shipping to conference proceedings. The most impressive is Jean Preer's well-crafted analysis of the 1936 ALA meeting in Richmond, Virginia. Led by the esteemed Louis Round Wilson the attendees grappled with a host of issues including the omnipresent issue of race—highlighted by the oppressive restrictions in place for African American librarians at the conference—and the ALA, the hope of acquiring federal aid for libraries, and the impact of new technologies on the work of librarians. Preer has done her homework with the appropriate sources and produced a sound history of this significant conference. Her methodology could serve as a fine guide for similar investigations of the many other ALA conferences over the past 125 years! Robert Wedgeworth, whose association with the ALA spans decades, penned an account of his perceptions of the most noteworthy happenings in the ALA during the 1970s. The construction of the new headquarters and the unforgettable drama surrounding the production of *The Speaker* are just two of the significant events of that eventful decade in the life of the profession. Finally, Harry Skallerup recounts the remarkable story of the launching of the steamship *ALA* in 1920. Now that's an interesting tale! (55)

Finally, last but not least, Donald G. Davis, Jr. joins Olga Diakonova and Ludmila Kozlova in providing a history of the IFLA section of the Library and Information Science Journals. Beginning in 1971 this small group of LIS journal editors met annually and sometimes more frequently to promote and enhance communication among the disparate members of this wide-ranging collection of LIS publishing colleagues. (56) Where would we be without the work of individuals like Don Davis and his hard-working and underappreciated fellow editors?

### **Library and Information Science (LIS) Education**

Pretty slim pickings in the area of LIS education history for this review period. Yet despite their limited number, the essays that did appear are noteworthy. Christine Pawley reported on the deliberations of the Historical Perspectives Special Interest Group at a 2004 conference of the Association for Library and Information Science Education. The participants debated the merits of including more library history into the LIS curriculum with suggestions for improving cooperation and collaboration among historians of both libraries and information science. Pawley's comments about how to increase the number of library history courses in current LIS programs merit attention from all LIS educators. (57)

Mary Niles Maack ably explores the history of the American library in Paris and the Paris Library School both sponsored by the American Library Association during the post-World War I period of the 1920s. The work of the various women who staffed the Paris library helped promote French awareness of American authors and of American book culture in general and also influenced the development of French librarianship in the first half of the twentieth century. (58)

Debra Hansen presents a fascinating study of library education in California during the early part of the twentieth century in her article about the three different education programs promoted by James Gillis, Everett Perry, and Joseph Daniels. Gillis was the California State Librarian, while Perry and Daniels both established library instruction courses at their respective public libraries in Los Angeles and Riverside. Hansen's work is solid history as she utilizes the appropriate primary and secondary sources to flesh out the sometimes cooperative and sometimes competitive relationship these three strong-willed men shared during this formative period of California librarianship. This is a nicely done work and is recommended as a model for similar investigations. (59)

Other contributions to the history of LIS include Steven Fisher's brief history of library education in Colorado, while Donald G. Davis, Jr. provides a broader perspective in his succinct explication of the foundations of LIS in the United States. (60) Finally, Marcia Bates, who earned a doctorate in library science from the University of California at Berkeley School of Library and Information Studies in 1972 recounts her years at the school between 1966 and 1971. Bates supplies us with an insider's view of the life of a student during those tempestuous years at Berkeley in the late 1960s when the entire LIS curriculum was under review and reform. (61) It would be exceedingly interesting if other contemporary library educators could supply their own memories of this period in our profession's educational journey.

### **Feminist, Ethnic, and Multicultural Librarianship**

Happily, a good number of items were published relating to the varied topics covered in this rather broadly conceived section during 2003-2005. In 1999 Plummer Alston Jones published his seminal work *Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience*. Jones has now followed his first outing with a new book that carries his story up the present day and once again provides an outstanding narrative and analysis of the issues that librarians grappled with as they confronted the challenges of each new phase of incoming Americans. Jones' new book is just as good as his last one (although not focused on individuals but on broader chronological themes) and just as valuable to us as a solid source for critical historical thinking on this very timely topic. Eric Novotny supplements the larger Jones work with his own very well done essay that focuses on the public library response to the early twentieth century wave of immigrants, especially in Chicago. Novotny concludes that the librarians of a century ago did not present a unified response, but instead displayed a wide range of opinions as to how to provide library services to these new Americans. (62)

By far the bulk of the contributions for this section this time focus on the African-American library experience, and there are several noteworthy pieces. Sarah Anderson has authored an outstanding article in *Library Quarterly* (traditionally a reliable and durable vehicle for well-crafted historical scholarship) that traces the life and times of Ernestine Rose, who served as director of the 135<sup>th</sup> Street Branch of the NYPL for two decades beginning in 1920. Rose vigorously worked to incorporate this Harlem branch into the artistic and cultural life of her community and in so doing

helped foster the burgeoning Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. She also succeeded in convincing Arthur Schomburg to donate his incredible collection to her library, which was renamed the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Anderson's story is both well told and well researched and helps us understand better the historical development of this significant library. Another quite interesting article is by Figa and Macpherson, who explore the remarkable impact that the 1954 landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling had on both libraries and on library and information science education for minorities in the ensuing fifty years. The Figa-Macpherson article is just one of several high quality offerings in a recent book edited by Wheeler entitled *Unfinished Business: Race, Equity, and Diversity in Library and Information Science Education*. This entire book of essays is one we should all take a closer look at! (63)

Allison Sutton published her interesting and informative study of the Negro Teacher-Librarian Training Program that flourished for a brief period in the 1930s in a *The Journal of Negro Education*, which was gratifying, since that journal is a rather unusual source for library history. It is always a good thing when our scholarship leaves the confines of the library and information science journal world and becomes incorporated into the larger non-library historical literature. Sutton's piece places the African-American training program within the context of the African-American educational experience and shows how even this limited training program caused stress within the ALA as it continued to cope with the "race issue" throughout the South. (64) Billie Walker brings to light the career of Daniel Alexander Payne Murray, who began working at the Library of Congress in 1871 as one of the first African-Americans to have a position in that library. Among many of his contributions was his effort (which ultimately failed) to produce an encyclopedia of African-American achievements in American history. Murray donated his extensive personal collection of publications by blacks published during the nineteenth century. Walker's article reflects her research in the Murray papers as well as other pertinent sources. Louise Robbins contributes another of her well-researched articles, this time on the impact that the Julius Rosenwald Fund and the Works Progress Administration had on African American literacy in Oklahoma during the 1930s and 1940s. Both programs sought to increase the amount and quality of books that would be made available to non-whites, although despite these efforts Robbins notes that African Americans were still often denied access to public libraries with good collections. Robbins' work is an excellent addition to the research devoted to the geography of reading in the United

States first outlined by Louis Round Wilson in his classic *Geography of Reading* (1938). (65)

Some other, shorter items also deserve mention. Carolyn Lipscomb takes a look at the African-American library question in the twentieth century from the standpoint of the medical library community, while Wheeler and Johnson-Houston do the same thing in a brief essay summarizing the ALA's response to the issue of race and librarianship. (66) Brazile and O-Riley outline the life and times of Louisiana librarian Muriel Belton Body, who contributed greatly to African American librarianship in that southern state during the middle of the twentieth century. James Neal examines the statistics relating to turnover in the directorship of Historically Black Colleges and Universities during the last half of the twentieth century and notes that leadership turnover for these institutions were not greatly different from the norm for ARL library directors for the same period. I must not overlook the Stauffer's excellent essay on the life and career of Mary Downey, who led libraries in Iowa, Ohio, Utah, and North Dakota. Stauffer's research is impressive and she has set her text within the now well-established historiography of women in librarianship in the nineteenth century. (67)

What Plummer Alston Jones has done for the immigrant and libraries, now needs to be accomplished for minority groups and libraries. A broad-based history of the African American, Latino, and other library experience is sorely needed. We have quite good at creating many smaller studies; now we need someone to put it all together from the standpoint of the new century and incorporating not only library history, but also taking the best from the enormous history of the African American in our society during the past one hundred years. That, of course, will be a large task, but one that awaits its author.

### **Technical Services, Preservation, and Technology**

There was an impressive amount of scholarship relating to the historical aspects of technical services and technology in the past few years. We had some book-length treatments as well as a number of articles and article collections. Of the books, the most impressive is Bourne and Hahn's extensive and detailed history of the burgeoning online information services that developed from the mid-1960s through the mid-1970s. In the online era this was a significant period when providers steadily moved from systems such as DIALOG to ORBIT to Psychological Abstracts and other online databases that we are so familiar with today. Bourne and Hahn's work is

incredibly dense and not a quick read, yet exceedingly valuable as a major historical synthesis of the importance of online retrieval as a research tool for contemporary libraries. Equally valuable is Rayward and Bowden's edited collection of historical essays that were presented at the 2002 History and Heritage of Scientific and Technological Information Systems conference in Philadelphia. This extensive volume enjoys an excellent introductory chapter by W. Boyd Rayward followed by more than a score of high quality presentations dealing with numerous aspects of information science and technology in libraries and other types of organizations that collected, interpreted, organized, and managed information during the latter half of the twentieth century. (68)

The journal *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* performed a great service by putting together a large collection of historically oriented essays edited by Martin D. Joachim. Space prohibits me from spending time on individual essays—which number over two dozen and span centuries and continents—so I will restrict my comments here to noting that we have rarely been blessed with such a gathering of historical writings seeking to uncover the past influences on the technical side of librarianship. I will list some of what I consider to be the most interesting of these essays in the endnote. (69) Beginning in 2003 Stephanie Ardito and Susanne Bjorner published a series of interviews with early pioneers in the creation and development of online sources. Ardito and Bjorner let the individuals speak for themselves and in so doing have created a type of online diary of the founding fathers (and mothers) of the online world. These interviews have been captured on the *Searcher* website and are readily available for researchers. (70)

Smaller studies include a number a good quality outings on a range of topics—some perhaps more familiar to us than others. Guerrini tackles the background to the creation of the General Material Designation (GMD) that found its initial introduction in the AACR1 to help cataloging cope with the growing avalanche of non-book materials arriving in libraries in the 1960s. A more recent technical issue is explored by Madison, who traces the evolution of the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records that was established as accepted practice by IFLA in 1997. In a short article, Hall brings to light the fascinating history of the magnificent (and probably never again attempted) 754 volume *National Union Catalog, Pre-1956 Imprints*, most commonly simply referred to as Mansell and now relegated to some forgotten corner of most large libraries in the United States and abroad. During its heyday, however, it was a remarkable achievement of cross-Atlantic coordination and painstaking work. (71)

Before leaving this section, I want to make sure I mention two impressive pieces that reflect solid historical research and scholarship. Fields and Connell delve into the history of how home economics became classed in the Dewey Decimal system and how Melvil and Annie Godfrey Dewey influenced the development of the discipline that became known as home economics through their involvement in a series of conferences at Lake Placid during the first years of the twentieth century. This is a remarkable story—well-told and well-researched—that I am sure few of us know about. I have to believe it is one of the few times when the library science profession actually affected the growth of another academic discipline! On another topic, Barbara Mitchell explains how Harvard's great librarian, John Langdon Sibley, began using women as an effective clerical force in the Harvard College Library. Another well crafted essay on a subject that needs much more research: the role of women in libraries great and small in the nineteenth century. (72)

Finally, I need to mention a few other useful items for my readers: Mack Lundy relates the evolution of the systems librarian position at the College of William and Mary from its inception in 1984. Guard, Brueggemann, Fant, et al., describe a similar developmental path at the University of Cincinnati. (73) Roger Schonfeld published a major study of the online journal project JSTOR in 2003 and followed it with a shorter article in the journal *Program*. Claus Suhr explains the early years of online patent information searching—always a tedious chore made easier in the online environment. (74) David Fowler provides a valuable summary of the short—yet dynamic—history of library licensing. Perhaps a snoozer to many of us, but still an exceedingly important component of library acquisitions processes. Susanna Davidsen takes us on an informative tour of the Internet Public Library and other library portals that have appeared in the 1990s. And finally, Werner Rebsamen examines the interesting and sometimes strange relationship between the librarian and that essential library service provider—the binder. (75)

## **Biography**

I often debate about what goes in this section. Do I put biographical material in the appropriate section, such as public librarians or academic librarians? Or do I keep all biographies together and put them here. As usual, I have mixed things up with some biographical works going here and others being placed elsewhere. We can almost always count on at least one new biography of Andrew Carnegie for each literature review and this time

Raymond Lamont-Brown does the honors with his 2005 study of the little Scotsman. Published in Great Britain, this work reflects a more European perspective on Carnegie's life and times. How much new is offered probably depends on how familiar the reader is with the already well-chronicled life of our profession's most famous benefactor. I imagine we can still rely on Joseph Wall's monumental *Andrew Carnegie* (1970) or Peter Krass' more recent *Carnegie* (2002). But for those who can't get enough, then Lamont-Brown's new tome should prove irresistible. (76)

Vartan Gregorian, who has enjoyed an active career in academia as president of Brown University and as the director of the New York Public Library (1981-1989), recounts his life in his 2003 autobiography. In the book the section on the NYPL is rather lengthy and goes into detail about Gregorian's vigorous efforts to improve that great library's fortunes after its unfortunate decline in the 1970s because of poor funding and neglect by the city's leaders. His fund-raising efforts were remarkable and helped the library restore some of its tarnished glory. (77) Felix Chu, who works as a cataloger at Western Illinois University published his memoirs, which combine an account of his own working experiences with useful observations on what it is like to work in an academic library in the latter part of the twentieth century. We have very few of these sorts of primary resources, and Chu's autobiography will provide insights into contemporary librarianship for future historians. (78)

John Knowlton edited Herbert Putnam's correspondence produced during Putnam's 1903 voyage to Europe. This slim volume includes not only personal letters Putnam sent to his wife and family, but also business correspondence between Putnam and his employees at the Library of Congress. Knowlton has added numerous annotations to assist the modern reader with unfamiliar names and places contained within Putnam's observations and instructions. Knowlton's book provides a window onto the world of Putnam and his perceptions of Europe at the beginning of the twentieth century. (79)

Eric Moon is probably one of the most famous librarians of the past fifty years, whose active career has continued to spur interest by scholars. Eric Glasgow recently crafted an insightful essay summarizing Moon's contributions to our profession from the British perspective. Donald G. Davis, Jr. contributes in a similar fashion in a lengthy review essay of Kenneth Kister's 2002 biography of Moon. Both Glasgow and Davis help flesh out some of the most important aspects of Moon's sometimes controversial professional life, especially his years as editor of *Library Journal*. (80)

Boyd Rayward's edited collection in *Library Trends* that has been mentioned above contains a number of essays with a biographical bent to them. These include two very good pieces, one by Jonathan Furner on Margaret Egan and the other by Tarcisio Zandonade on Jesse Shera and the collaborative work that Shera and Egan conducted on their theory of social epistemology. (81) Also instructive is La Barre's nicely wrought essay on the life and times of Phyllis Allen Richmond, whose research on facet analytical theory influenced modern cataloging and classification. And Cragin contributes to our limited knowledge of Foster Edward Mohrhardt's long service and contributions as director of the National Agriculture Library from 1954 to 1968. (82)

The *Law Library Journal* published a series of biographical articles in 2004 and 2005 including short pieces on Julius Marke and Viola Bird. (83) Tsuen-hsuei Tsien recounts his years in the late 1940s while as a student at the University of Chicago Graduate Library School. Tsien stayed on at the University of Chicago library and had a distinguished career, retiring in 1978. Bette Oliver, who for twenty years served as assistant editor for *Libraries & Culture*, deftly summarizes her career in a brief essay. (84) Finally, in a rather unique piece of research, Dilevko and Gottlieb examine librarian obituaries in the *New York Times* between 1977 and 2002. They were impressed by the positive tone of the obituaries and noted that for the most part the accounts focused on large-scale accomplishments of these individuals. This kind of unusual research methodology can go a long way toward helping us understand better how the popular media view the roles and contributions of librarians. (85)

## **Reading, Printing, and Publishing**

This has often been a large (and often unwieldy) section, and as been the case the last few years, I will have to really bear down to keep it under manageable control. We are blessed with two quite interesting overviews of the new (or at least not that old) discipline of book history. In one of our profession's most venerable journals, *The Journal of American History*, Joan Rubin discusses the emergence of book history as a legitimate subdiscipline of American history. Her essay is especially valuable in that Rubin, who wrote *The Making of Middle/Brow Culture* (1992), knows a great deal about book culture and can thus provide an informed assessment of the impact and growth of book history studies. (86) Jared Jenisch tackles the same topic from the standpoint of someone still immersed as a student in library and information science and argues that book history remains a significant and

important part of contemporary librarianship—even if we are being taken over by the digital world. (87) From someone deeply involved in the entire enterprise of book culture studies, we have a nicely crafted early history of the subdiscipline by Jonathan Rose, who has done as much as anyone to promote the growth of book history. Also noteworthy is a philosophical piece authored by Greetham and Bornstein that inserts a little Foucault into the mix. Not for the faint of heart, but certainly worth a peek if a person has time or inclination. (88)

The history of reading, which remains the foundation for so much of what we do, continues to spark attention. Steven Fischer completed his trilogy of historical studies, which began with *A History of Language* (1999), followed by *A History of Writing* (2001) with the final volume entitled *A History of Reading* (2003). Fischer's work probably does not replace Alberto Manguel's *A History of Reading* (1996), but it does read well nonetheless. (89) Nicholas Basbanes, who has delighted us over the years with his cleverly written, and deeply researched books, has completed his own trilogy of remarkable works which began in 1995 with his *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books*, which led to the 2001 *Patience & Fortitude: A Roving Chronicle of Book People, Book Places, and Book Culture* and now concludes with another masterpiece, *A Splendor of Letters: The Permanence of Books in an Impermanent World* (2003). Basbanes is an excellent writer who can gallop across the centuries and still keep a theme intact. (90) Leah Price provides a succinct, yet insightful, review of the current scholarship devoted to the history of reading in her essay that concludes the 2004 volume of *Book History*. (91) Such reviews are quite handy for helping the curious get a handle on this dynamic and growing literature.

Focusing more on reading and book culture in the United States, we have a new book by Edward and Elaine Gordon that explores how literacy developed in this country. Going back to the Colonial era the Gordons provide a detailed treatment of reading habits throughout the eastern half of the United States. The Gordons' volume is complemented by another large new book devoted to growth of literacy in the Colonial period by Monaghan. Along these same lines, we can benefit from the wisdom of Donald Krummel, who sheds light on the books represented by the standard bibliographies created by Evans, Shaw-Shoemaker as well as the *Bibliography of American Imprints*. (92)

Historical assessments of different sorts of readers and reading experiences have continued to appear at a dizzying rate, and the following represents what I consider the most important, but is certainly not

comprehensive. We would need another essay to capture the full flavor of this burgeoning literature. Elizabeth Long presents a well-constructed history of women and their book clubs beginning in the nineteenth century within the context of a sociology of reading. This is a good book and certainly worthwhile for anyone interested in getting an introduction to the subject. The indefatigable Zborays who have contributed so much to our understanding of literacy in early America with their numerous writings have turned their attention to the more modern period with a study of the mass market book. Lundin and Wiegand put together a good collection of essays that examine the impact of American culture on how children and young people approach literature and reading. Joanne Passet delves more deeply into the subject of young people's reading habits in her exploration of religion and children's reading in an essay for *Book History*. And Rebecca Barry takes us on a tour of what was involved in republishing the various collections of classic books and how American readership responded during the 1990s. (93)

The *Journal of Military History* (an unusual source for library history to be sure) recently published an interesting article on military reading habits during World War II. In his essay Christopher Loss acknowledges most of the important secondary literature pertaining to the army's reading habits during the war, but he does seem to neglect mentioning Katherine Harig's valuable *Libraries, the Military, & Civilian Life* (1989). Still it is nice to see a major military history journal such as *JMH* treat books and reading within its pages. (94) Passet contributes yet another well-crafted article on the impact of utopian novels on women's reading habits in her analysis of the late nineteenth novel *Hilda's Home* and its reception by women. Women's reading practices is also the subject of Mary Kelley's article that describes Margaret Fuller efforts to promote reading in the antebellum era. (95)

This section concludes with passing mention of a few other items. The Library of Congress published a nicely presented history of books on the western frontier authored by Richard Clement. Western publishing is also the topic of two new articles by Robert Armstrong. Armstrong has published an incredible number of articles on western print culture and is probably the leading authority on this subject. (96) The Government Printing Office as a creator of new published works continues to intrigue scholars. Imholtz traces the background to the venerable serial set, while Aimée Quinn examines the founding fathers' attitude toward the creation and distribution of government information. (97)

Liu Ziming provides an interesting history of how documents arose as vehicles for conveying information and takes us all the way back to the

Sumerians. A well known bookstore and a well-known publisher each receive their due: David Emblidge handles the history of San Francisco's City Lights Bookstore, while Henrik Edelman provides a well-crafted essay on the life and times of Frederick Praeger, who founded the publishing house that bears his name. And finally, finally, R. W. Holder devotes a chapter on our very own Noah Webster in his new book, *The Dictionary Men*. (98)

## General Studies

We now come to the last section, which can also readily get out of control with odds and ends that don't fit nicely within the other sections. There is a little bit of something for everyone here. We'll start with Freeman and Hovde's excellent gathering of essays devoted to the long-neglected topic of how libraries have sought to bring their collections and services to isolated communities and those without ready access to the traditional bricks and mortar library building. As usual, space precludes me from the longer comments this fine volume deserves, but I can at least point to reader to a couple of recent reviews by Pawley and Passet for more thorough critiques. This wide-ranging collection of solid essays deserves wide distribution among the library community and I hope this is what happens! (99)

Wayne Wiegand has done his usual prodding of our collective thought processes and in an article in 1999 urged the LIS community to recast its approach to library history. In response John Budd, Douglas Raber and Marie and Gary Radford crafted sophisticated essays bringing to light some of the most important aspects of social science theory and its application to library science and library history. Wiegand later published another insightful essay arguing that we could benefit from the methodological approaches inherent in contemporary American studies research. (100)

The complicated issue of what information is and what theoretical and philosophical constructs can be used to understand its nature has occupied a number of rather large collections recently. *Library Trends* devoted an entire issue to this question as did a recent issue of the *Journal of Documentation*. (101) In his book-length study of information science, Douglas Raber focuses on the complicated challenge of exploring the nature of information as an abstract object. If that isn't enough reading material, then we should also not forget Capurro's chapter on "The Concept of Information" in a recent *Annual Review of Information Science and*

*Technology*. (102) These contributions should help us get a better handle on the ever-challenging question of what information is!

James V. Carmichael, Jr. applies his usual wit and analytical prowess to a finely crafted essay that surveys the history of librarianship in the south during the first part of the twentieth century. Few of us equal Carmichael's knowledge of the south and its tortuous history of librarianship. Patrick Valentine has authored a highly impressive article that examines the role of libraries and print culture in North Carolina during the period prior to 1800. This essay must be considered a *tour de force* and recommended as a worthy model for future investigations of other regions. James Hulse provides a quite useful history of both public and academic libraries in Nevada—an area that has been for the most part neglected by library historians. Hulse has done his homework and his book possesses an impressive bibliography of primary and secondary sources. (103)

Two philosophically-oriented works bear mentioning. Buschman devotes his book to an exploration of the role of librarianship within the larger American society and culture and argues that libraries always have and always will play a significant part in capturing and organizing the most important intellectual and cultural features of the societies of which they are a part. Frieda Weise complements Buschman with her insightful piece on a recent hot topic within our profession: the library as place. I think there will be much more said on this whole question in the future (at least there needs to be more said!). (104) How libraries are perceived by the American public is always an intriguing question and has received a bit of attention recently. Tancheva brings to his discussion about libraries and their appearance in recent movies such as *The Name of the Rose* the theories of Charles Peirce and his interest in semiotics. Stoddart and Lee continue this line of research with their exploration of the rhetorical implications of academic and professional library literature within the larger intellectual culture this literature inhabits. Finally, the Tevis' provide a lengthy examination of the image of librarians in the movies since their inception in the early twentieth century. Librarian stereotypes in the movies has been well-known for years, but the Tevis' book provides a thorough re-examination of our fellow citizen's most annoying assumptions about who we are and what we do. (105)

John Spencer Walters, who has written extensively on the history of government publications, provides an erudite and well written overview of the Government Printing Office and the ideological underpinnings of what has become our nation's largest publisher. Charles Seavey, another long-time observer of government publications puts forth some succinct

suggestions about the past, present, and future of government publishing. (106) The U.S. Government and the passing of the USA PATRIOT Act in 2001 has spurred the appearance of a number of essays devoted to trying to understand better what this type of legislation means for libraries and their users. Recent examples of this nascent literature include works by Jaeger et al, Phillips, and Starr. (107)

The unhappy reality of libraries being destroyed by war and pestilence is a topic we often downplay, but over the centuries libraries have been exceedingly vulnerable to the ravages of war and natural disasters. This grim topic is the subject of two recent books: a longitudinal study by Raven, and one more focused on the results of our hugely violent previous century. Genieva provides a thoughtful shorter piece on what it means when a nation's rare books are taken as "war trophies." (108)

## **Conclusion**

More than thirty years ago the great British historian, J. H. Hexter, divided historians into "lumpers" and "splitters": meaning those who generalize and those who particularize. (109) It appears to me that our subdiscipline has generated a large literature that is narrowly focused, but still lacks much "lumping" or syntheses. Part of the problem is that it is exceedingly difficult to create a one-size-fits-all history of academic libraries, or of special libraries, or even of public libraries (although that has been tried with varying levels of success. Nevertheless I hope that in the ensuing years we can create more generalized works that can incorporate some of the modern methodologies inherent in the social sciences, while at the same time staying true to the humanities roots of our historical profession. Our craft should help us understand these interconnections between the various approaches to research. (110) After all, library history is mostly telling a story, a story about our profession and how it has contributed to the larger narrative of America. That is our obligation and our duty to future generations of library historians.

## **Master's Theses and Doctoral Dissertations**

- Baker, Cathleen Ann. "The Press that Cotton Built: Printing in Mobile, Alabama, 1850-1865." Ph.D. diss., University of Alabama, 2004.
- Blahut, Adam. "A study of the founding of the Erie Public Library." Masters thesis, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, 2005.
- Breyer, John Stewart. "No Way In: The Public Domain, Personal Interest and the Evolution of Copyright." Ph.D. diss., University of Southern Mississippi, 2004.
- Carpenter, Walter Duane. "Values, Leaders and *My Weekly Reader*: An Historical Study." Ph.D. diss., University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2003.
- Chen, Robin S. D. "The Principle Library Buildings of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in Context." Master's thesis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2005.
- Cirbee, Carol Ann. "Reading Between the Lines: What America Learned from its Basal Readers, 1850-2000." Ph.D. diss., Capella University, 2004.
- Davis, Melvin Duane. "Collecting Hispania: Archer Huntington's Quest to Develop Hispanic Collections in the United States." Ph.D. diss., University of Alabama, 2005.
- Evans, L. Tiffany. "A History and Organizational Development Analysis of the Formation of OhioLINK: A Statewide Inter-Organizational Library Consortium, 1986-1992." Ph.D. diss., University of Pittsburgh, 2004. [Thesis Advisor: Arlene G. Taylor]
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