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The Literature of American Library History, 2001–2002

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Abstract

This is the fifth time I have composed this overview of current writings on American library history, which means that for the past ten years I have carefully monitored the amount and variety of scholarship that has appeared every two years from the little band of scholars who continually explore our corner of the historical canvas. As usual, our colleagues have been busy providing the rest of us with a wealth of writings and interpretations of our library past that will in turn foster yet more research and more thought about the role libraries, librarianship, and book culture have played in our nation's journey to the present. So with this brief introduction, let us now begin our journey through this most recent outpouring of scholarship on American library history.

Disciplines

Library and Information Science

Comments

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The Literature of American Library History, 2001-2002

Edward A. Goedeken

The past is never dead. It's not even past.
William Faulkner *Requiem for a Nun*

Books collide—
Or books in a library do:
Marlowe by Charlotte Mew,
Sir Horace Walpole by Hugh;
The most unlikely writers stand shoulder to shoulder;
One studies incongruity as one grows older.
Barbara Howes *A Private Signal: Poems
New and Selected*

Introduction

This is the fifth time I have composed this overview of current writings on American library history, which means for the past ten years I have carefully monitored the amount and variety of scholarship that has appeared every two years from the little band of scholars who continually explore our corner of the historical canvas. As usual our colleagues have been busy providing the rest of us with a wealth of writings and interpretations of our library past that will in turn foster yet more research and more thought about the place libraries, librarianship, and book culture have played in our nation's journey to the present. So with this brief introduction, let us now begin our journey through this most recent outpouring of scholarship on American library history.

Sources and Historiography

A. N. Wilson recently noted that all history “is selective, and by implication, if not overtly, it makes judgements.” (1) The craft of historical scholarship, therefore, is highly individualistic since each of us brings to our research and writing our own prejudices and proclivities. As usual, the items in this section represent recently published works that are geared toward helping us understand better our historiographical responsibilities

and provide guidance for our work. I will begin with general discussions and conclude with contributions focused more deliberately on library history.

Beverly Southgate has updated her well-received survey entitled History: What and Why?, a short book which is an excellent place to start any historiographical quest. Arthur Marwick has revised his classic The Nature of History (1970) with The New Nature of History: Knowledge, Evidence, Language, which, like Southgate, provides a highly useful introduction to our discipline. Gabriel Ricci balances Southgate and Marwick with his nicely constructed investigation of how philosophy and history intersect. Complementing these three new works is Kramer and Maza's collection of essays on western historical thought, which contains more than two dozen contributions that survey historical scholarship from the ancient world to the present. (2)

When we consider historiographical treatments of American history we are fortunate to have available recent books by two of our most prominent contemporary historians. John Lewis Gaddis, a leading interpreter of the Cold War, and Eric Foner, whose writings on the Civil War era have influenced a generation of historians, have each produced book-length essays on the nature of history. (3) We can benefit greatly from the insights of these learned historians! Melvyn Stokes has edited an exceedingly helpful compilation of essays that take a broad look at various sub-topics within our discipline such as gender and popular culture among many others. Other valuable contributions include an informative history of American historical scholarship by Ellen Fitzpatrick, and a sophisticated rendering of modern American historiography by that dean of American historians, David W. Noble. (4)

If we consider the library as a place where the reader meets the text, then David Glassberg's examination of the role of place in American history is especially appropriate for our labors. (5) Shorter contributions include Thomas Bender's reflections on the role that narrative synthesis plays in the crafting of recent American historiography, and Daniel Wickberg's explanation of how historians have treated intellectual and social topics in the past several years. (6)

As historians we use a variety of tools to assist us in excavating the records of our past. In addition to archival research (which is an essential component of most historical scholarship), we can also make use of other approaches including oral history, an approach thoroughly covered in Sommer and Quinlan's The Oral History Manual. For those of us a little weak in our quantitative skills, we can gain solid instruction from a new

book by Feinstein and Thomas that focuses on how historians can use statistical analysis in their research. Lastly, Lawrence McCrank has produced a massive compilation of citations relating to the access, preservation, and analysis of historical information that is leading to a new sub-discipline called historical information science. (7)

Rounding out this section I must make sure I mention David Stam's new two-volume International Dictionary of Library Histories, which came out in 2001. Expanding on Davis and Wiegand's 1994 Encyclopedia of Library History, Stam's work is especially useful for his inclusion of over forty thematic essays that treat a variety of library types in their historical context. Those essays alone are worth the price of the set! Also worthy of mentioning is Tolzmann's updating of Alfred Hessel's 1925 German language The History of Libraries. Tolzmann adds new information to the first chapter on ancient Sumerian libraries and augments the original work with a final chapter that brings the story up to the present time. (8)

Last, but certainly not least, I want to make sure that everyone is aware of an interesting discussion that has been taking place recently concerning the future direction of American library history. British library historian Alistair Black launched the initial volley in a 1998 article published in Library History. Donald G. Davis, Jr. and Jon Aho answered Black with a well-constructed essay in the same journal in 2001. (9) In his 1998 remarks, Black had proposed that library historians broaden their investigations to include all of information and thus create a new field called "information history." Davis and Aho explore four basic approaches to library history, which they identify as: (1) retaining the current model; (2) change to an information science model; (3) change to a history model; or (4) change to a book history model. They conclude that perhaps the best model for future library historical scholarship would be either becoming more part of the mainstream historical profession or pursuing the history of the book model. Although outside the temporal bounds of this review, the Black-Davis and Aho conversation has been continued with a recent contribution by Jonathan Rose, who—not surprisingly given his active involvement in SHARP—supports the book history model. It would be well worth our time to acquaint ourselves thoroughly with the important points made by these scholars, since their arguments cogently reflect the ongoing debate within our discipline about what our future holds. For the past quarter century or so American library historiography has continued to mature in its methodology and presentation and I would be most unhappy if the energetic debate that has now arisen fizzles out instead of launching a sustained reexamination American library historiography.

Special, Private, and Subscription Libraries

Attention to special, private, or subscription libraries has continued to decline over the past couple of decades as writers have increasingly investigated other types of libraries. A recrudescence of research in this area is certainly in order. Nevertheless, we have this time several well-regarded contributions to recognize. The most impressive is Andrew Kirk's book-length history of the Conservation Library housed in Denver's Public Library. (10) Through the effective use of manuscript sources buttressed by a judicious blend of secondary literature from both library science and the social sciences, Kirk explores the relationship between libraries and environmentalism in the twentieth century West and shows how the original library evolved from a place that simply stored trophies of Progressive Era conservation into a facility that served as a clearing house for alternative technology information. A remarkable and well-told story with a methodology and approach that should be consulted by all of us!

Two of our better-known special libraries recently published glossy accounts of their history. The Morgan Library: An American Masterpiece published a glossy account of its growth, which, while short on historical analysis, is long nicely presented illustrations. A little more applicable to the work of historians is the Smithsonian Institutions' similarly flashy representation of its own past as profiled in a recent book that reproduces a 2001 exhibition entitled Voyages; A Smithsonian Libraries Exhibition. This work, however, also benefits from the inclusion of an insightful essay by curator Mary Augusta Thomas. (11)

Private architectural libraries is the subject of Hafertepe and O'Gorman's edited set of essays that survey private architectural collections of such well-known Americans as Washington and Jefferson. Beyond a simple listing of books, the authors in American Architects and Their Books to 1848 help us understand the role the architectural literature had the rise of architecture as an intellectual enterprise and in so doing provide a worthwhile introduction to the early years of American architectural thought. Also engaging is James Raven's remarkable study of the Charleston Library Society in South Carolina and its relationship with the London publishing community in the eighteenth century. Raven describes how the Charleston library built its collection while revealing in good detail the inner workings of the British book trade during the latter half of the

1700s. This work reflects an impressive blending of social, economic, and literary history. (12)

Social libraries, often considered the predecessor to the modern public library, are the subject of two recent essays. In Historical New Hampshire, a non-library sciences publication (which is always good!), Jim Piecuch traces the history of the Portsmouth Social Library using appropriate primary sources as well as works by Shera and other library historians. It is always nice to see state history publications include scholarship on libraries.

Timothy Harris explores the eighteenth-century roots of the Lexington, Kentucky public library in his essay, which would have been strengthened by greater attention to the larger historiographical context of social libraries in the early Republic. (13)

Several years ago Peter Duignan published a history of the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace, which he has recently updated with a pair of articles in Library History. (14) No one probably knows more about the evolution of that venerable research facility than Duignan, and his recent contributions fill in the years since the appearance of his 1985 monograph. Another specialized library of renown—The Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology—receives its due in a recent pamphlet by Owen Gingerich. From another direction we can remember that once upon a time workers' libraries were common throughout the eastern part of this country, but our knowledge of their collections is rather limited. Thus, the publication of the annotated catalogue of a nineteenth-century German Socialist library located in Cleveland, Ohio provides a unique window into the reading habits of this fascinating segment of American society. (15)

I want to also note here three nicely presented essays that deal with the history of medical libraries. Belleh and v. d. Luft trace the history of financing medical libraries in the United States and Canada in the 1800s. Betsy Humphreys moves into the more recent past with an assessment of how well the NLM and its myriad of health science libraries interacted in the final decades of the twentieth century. Also, Nancy Clemmons records an interview she conducted with Lucretia McClure, one of the leaders in medical librarianship in the last third of the twentieth century. All of these publications are well researched and reflect mature historical scholarship. (16)

Wrapping up this section I note with pleasure a nicely crafted essay on the presidential libraries by Richard Cox, who has written extensively on archival topics and is eminently qualified to ruminate about what he calls the “American pyramids.” Judith Nixon describes the evolution of Purdue

University Library's unique Krannert Library collection of writings devoted to history of economic thought. Finally, Peter Accardo describes the personal library of Harvard's Hollis Professor Divinity. (17)

Public Libraries

When we look at the generous outpouring of writings devoted to public libraries it makes one positively euphoric about the future of scholarship in this area. To start with, we can take pleasure in Toby Graham's perspicuous study of public libraries and Civil Rights in Alabama, which he originally conceived as his 1998 doctoral dissertation. (18) Meticulous and diligent archival research undergirds this important work, which examines public library segregation in Alabama during the twentieth century. When we remember that Alabama represented the frontlines in the Civil Rights struggle, Graham's book takes on even more meaning. Graham's study reflects the emergence of the new generation of library historians who have been trained in the necessity of archival research augmented with wide-ranging secondary sources. A Right to Read should be perused by all of us and can readily serve as a model of methodological rigor.

We do not have any other book-length histories, but I do want to make sure that the chapter on libraries in Virginia McCormick's well-written Educational Architecture in Ohio is not overlooked. Using an impressive array of library history secondary sources, McCormick assesses the variety of libraries found in Ohio ranging from public to school to academic under her umbrella conception of "educational architecture." This is the kind of literature that is sometimes missed by our usual indexing approaches, and when that happens it is our loss. Another recent monograph that would not ordinarily be considered historical is Ronald McCabe's Civic Librarianship. Although focusing mostly on the present, McCabe includes a section that examines the historical role of libraries as cultural institutions that have traditionally maintained responsibilities for promoting the intellectual growth of the citizenry within their communities. (19)

As usual, a number of individual public libraries received historical treatment with varying degrees of quality. Burlingham and Whiteman have edited a heavily illustrated tome devoted to some of the special items held within the walls of nearly three-dozen Los Angeles area libraries. Beyond the pretty pictures, however, this rather weighty volume contains a couple of quite good essays: one by Nicolas Barker that treats the buildings of library collections in southern California; in the other Kenneth Breisch, who has

written recently on the famous library architect, Henry Hobson Richardson, waxes eloquently—and to some length—on the major Los Angeles library architects. Michael Hazel published a centennial history of the Dallas Public Library that reflects the perils and promise of so of much contemporary historical scholarship. Hazel carefully mines the local archives and newspaper sources to create a detailed blow-by-blow account of the DPL's growth. But he is innocent of any of the larger secondary literature of American library history. So we end up with this wonderfully constructed edifice with no intellectual foundation! Digging in the archives is only one part of true historical work: we have to understand the larger context of what we are doing. Knowing this difference separates the amateur from the professional historical. (20)

History written with an understanding of context can most often be found within the pages of Libraries & Culture. And, as usual, public libraries are a popular subject. Daniel Ring continues his exploration of western public libraries, this time with a sprightly study of Billings, Montana Public Library. He explores the reasons for the establishment of a public library in a rugged and isolated community like Billings that would lay the groundwork for the evolution of a more complex culture in the future. Moving even farther west, Cheryl Gunselman provides a solidly researched portrayal of the early years of Portland, Oregon's public library, which began its life as a subscription library in 1864. A generous donation and the determined leadership of its director, Mary Frances Isom, helped the fledgling public library survive its challenging birth experience. Still in the Northwest, we can take a certain amount of pleasure in Maryan Reynold's book-length history of the Washington State Library in Pullman. Reynolds has pored over dozens of primary documents along with the appropriate secondary accounts. Her problem, however, is the same as that demonstrated by Michael Hazel in his history of the Dallas Public Library: there is no evidence in her endnotes that a body of historical scholarship exists that could readily provide a context for her state library history. So, once again we have a detailed inventory of events—admittedly well told—but the bigger picture of how the Washington State Library fits into the overall development of this kind of library in the second half of the twentieth century is lost amidst the detail. If Reynolds could have balanced her narrative with the inclusion of larger themes that would have been an interesting story! (21)

Swinging back to the other end of the continent we have Barry Seaver's account of Rebecca Browning Rankin's use of radio at New York City's Municipal Reference Library. Spun off from his 1997 dissertation

(which was directed by Ed Holley), Seaver provides an enlightening account of the Rankin's creative use of the new communication medium during the 1930s to promote library services. For the past several years we have blessed with several articles treating various aspects of the history of our grandest library, but it seems that the well has temporarily—I hope!—run dry. Our token essay this time on the Library of Congress is by Tom Glynn and Craig Hagensick, who examine the catalog of books James Madison proposed in 1783 as a foundation for the original Library of Congress collection and compare them with the list of books that actually became the initial LC in 1800. The authors make some interesting observations on how the two lists differed and how those differences represented the evolving perceptions of what our early national leaders considered essential reading during the first two decades of our nation's existence. (22)

Wisconsin is the scene of two brief articles. James Sickel surveys the creation of Carnegie libraries in Northeast Wisconsin in a nicely constructed piece using both primary and secondary sources. Also valuable is Michael Keane's history of the first century of the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, which was founded by the inestimable Charles McCarthy in 1901. Keane's narrative reflects his familiarity with the LRB and its contribution to Wisconsin librarianship over the decades. (23)

The role played by the Works Progress Administration in Indiana during the 1930s is the subject of a recent article in Indiana Libraries. By 1939 over 230 WPA workers were providing service to four-dozen libraries. WPA workers made a significant contribution to the general functioning of these Indiana libraries during the difficult depression years. Finally, Jonathan Jeffrey takes a quick look at the history of public library in Versailles, Kentucky using local primary sources and a few secondary ones. (24) A veritable blizzard of smaller public library histories appeared in the last couple of years, and I am simply going to note them in the endnote without additional comment. They will provide future historians with grist for a larger study on the development of public libraries, but in themselves reflect little beyond raw narratives. (25)

The Summer 2002 issue of Library Trends contains some interesting articles relating to labor and public libraries. Elizabeth Hubbard provides an historical overview of the topic followed by two excellent essays, one authored by Ann Sparanese that focuses specifically on public libraries, and the other by Arthur Meyers that explains the relationship between the American Library Association and the AFL-CIO. These three essays join several others not as historically oriented, but still quite usable in helping us

understand this neglected area of public librarianship over the past century. (26)

Other recent contributions include Donald G. Davis, Jr.'s two edited works dealing with Texas library history: one a chronology, and the other a bibliography. With the extent and scope of these two publications, we now have a model that others can use to provide a similar account of library histories in other states. Only forty-nine more states to go! (27) Brendan Luyt traces the evolution of the reader's advisory service in the United States in a sophisticated article using social science theory that demonstrates just how complex libraries are within their social context. Those with French language skills will benefit from Martine Poulain's recent essay that compares the development of American and French libraries in the nineteenth century, and we can also benefit from Abigail Van Slyck's acute observations about public libraries in a short piece in *L&C*. (28) And on a lighter note, Melody Kelly describes how one small library in Midway, Texas used the proceeds from the sale of a pig to provide the initial funding for their school library! Strange, but evidently true. (29)

What we still need, of course, is a well-researched and mature history of public libraries in America. We need someone to tie together all the disparate writings I have been viewing over the past ten years (as well as what has been reviewed all the years before that) and craft a solid historical work that will provide a baseline for future historiographical scholarship as this century progresses. We are all still waiting!

Academic Libraries

Over the years academic libraries have received a steady amount of scholarly attention, although, like for their public library brethren, we still lack a reliable survey of this important sector of American librarianship. Nevertheless we can take heart that each year we have more secondary literature that can eventually serve as the basis for the much-anticipated magnum opus on post-secondary libraries. The only book-length study this time is devoted to a history of law school libraries. Glen-Peter Ahlers traces the evolution of this specialized academic endeavor in a slim volume that speedily covers the early history of these institutions followed by chapters on the growth of the collections and services. Much of his 175-page text reprints various law school standards and bylaws, which can make for tedious reading. Complementing Ahlers' book is an impressive history of the Michigan Law Library by Margaret Leary. Leary plumbs the pertinent

primary sources in telling the story of how the Hobart Coffey, who directed the law library for nearly forty years. (30)

Music is another specialized discipline that often develops its own library in academe, and we benefited this time from two well-written essays dealing with this kind of library. Marjorie Hassen has crafted an impressive overview of music library development in the United States and links it to the concomitant growth of music as an academic department. Her history explicates the rise of the music libraries in several major universities including Cornell, Vassar, University of Chicago, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Indiana University. John Anderies further explains the growth of the Indiana University music library with his well-written biography of Ethel Lyman, whose remarkable career as the first music librarian at Indiana, laid the intellectual and organizational groundwork for that nationally recognized collection. (31)

Academic librarians place a great deal of emphasis on teaching within the public services domain and a spate of writings were published recently that tackle the historical dimensions of this task. Maureen Kilcullen takes the longest view with her assessment of librarians as teachers. Going back to the late nineteenth century and then moving up through the years to Evan Farber and finally to the various ALA and ACRL bibliographic instruction committees, Kilcullen provides a concisely presented and well-documented overview. In another essay, Yvonne Meulemans explores how librarians have grappled with assessing our success or failure with promoting information literacy. Meulemans sets her observations within the larger context of how instructional theory in higher education has evolved over the past decades, which is quite useful and something I would like to see happen more often! (32) The reference function is the subject David Tyckoson's article that swiftly summarizes the history of reference service (beginning with Samuel Swet Green, of course) and then more leisurely examines the various approaches that have been tried since World War II culminating with the challenges the Internet now presents to harried practitioners. On a little different note—and a topic I am not sure I have ever seen tackled before—Nancy Courtney investigates the history of unaffiliated users in academic libraries since World War II. This is a really fascinating topic, and Courtney effectively traces the shifting stances that academic librarians have taken as resources have declined while the number of patrons has increased over the years. Moreover, the impact of patrons searching online catalogs from afar has added yet another dimension to this conundrum. How academic libraries have coped with the chronic problem of dwindling resources through the construction of consortia is the subject of Sharon Bostick's slim

essay. Bostick alludes to the evolution of something called a “superconsortium,” which consists of several consortia working together with even more cooperative power than a single consortia. (33)

Histories of individual academic libraries were few and far between. Indeed, I would look favorably upon a recrudescence of more lengthy studies on any of the dozens of major institutions that dot the American countryside. This time around we have a series of shorter contributions with limited historical appeal. Patricia Howard summarizes the history of the Cincinnati Bible College library and Kathleen Cain writes similarly briefly on the history of Front Range Community College library. Sheau-yueh Chao provides a quick look at the development of Baruch College’s international cooperation program with China. (34)

Finally, this section concludes with the acknowledgment of a couple of recent works that relate to the growth of our more esteemed collections. Siegfried Baur shares with us the interesting tale of Syracuse University’s acquisition of the great German historian Leopold von Ranke’s personal library in the late 1880s. James E. Mooney has edited a reprint of Yale College Library’s eighteenth century catalogue. (35)

Library Associations

Over the years library historians have paid a certain amount of attention to the historical aspects of our profession. Of course, we still have not produced that all-important update to Dennis Thomison’s history of the ALA, which is now twenty-five years old—and not getting any younger! A new synthesis of all the history that has been written since 1978 about not only the ALA, but also about American librarianship in general, is badly needed.

Nevertheless I am pleased to point to another well-crafted brick for the foundation of this someday-forthcoming general history: Toni Samek’s finely crafted study of ALA’s Round Table on Social Responsibility and its fervent efforts to recast the traditionally conservative and neutral approach librarians have taken towards the social and political issues of the day. Samek points out that ultimately the conservative forces prevailed, keeping on the fringes the alternative presses and politics that the Round Table had sought to promote. Samek’s book, based on her 1998 dissertation guided by Wayne Wiegand, shows careful scholarship and is a valuable contribution to the history of a tempestuous period in the life of the sometime-stodgy ALA. (36)

Histories of two of ALA's subsections were published recently. Margaret Reinert surveys the past forty years of the history section of the Reference and User Services Division, which began life in 1961. A similar effort can be found in the 2002 update to Lois Mills' 1992 history of the Government Documents Round Table by Romans and Peterson. Their narrative carries Mills' story up through 2002 and provides a great deal of basic information within its fifty pages. (37) The historical background of the Louisiana Library Association is the subject of a pamphlet by Dawson, Jumonville, and Aucoin, which is long on pictures and short on text. A much more extensive history of the LLA by Dawson and Jumonville will come out 2003. (38) The Texas Library Association receives its historical due with two pieces, one by Davis and Meraz, and the other by Janet Moltzan. (39)

From here on out, the pickings get slimmer. The best of the rest is Mary Case's treatment of ARL's SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) project. Although it sounds like they found the acronym first and what it stood for second, this ambitious effort reflects the frustration of the larger academic libraries (led by their august association) to combat the inexorable rise in materials prices. (40) Concluding this section I note smaller contributions: DeFrangé on the rise of the Ohio Educational Library Media Association; Harper's essay on the first century of the Yellow Springs, Ohio library association; and Haeuser's history of the Gustavus Adolphus College library associates group. (41)

Library and Information Science (LIS) Education

I mentioned the last time around that interest in this area seemed to be flagging a bit—and it still is at about the same rate. Only a handful of items appeared during the period under review, but there are a couple of gems in the bunch. The University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences celebrated its centennial (which seems to be a common impetus for such endeavors) with a book-length history by Carol Bleier. Organized by the terms of its directors (another common approach) this handsome volume is replete with biographical vignettes and a smoothly written narrative. Bleier has tapped into the local archives as well as availing herself of numerous interviews. Her use of the appropriate secondary literature seems on target, too. All in all a nice effort. Equal in quality, if not as lengthy, is the venerable George Bobinski's account of the SUNY-Buffalo's library school from its inception in 1919 through Bobinski's only nearly three-decade term as dean of the school. As an historian, Bobinski brings to his writing not

only a sense of the past, but also the ability to highlight the most important trends and events in the school's evolution during the twentieth century.

(42) Both Bleier and Bobinski have produced solid histories of their respective institutions, which could serve as models for the many other LIS histories that are needed.

A more focused history of LIS education is provided by Logan and Hsieh-ye, which while not extensively historical (because of the short time-frame) is still good for its assessment of how even in the period of a single decade things can change so much. Closer to our collective hearts is Marija Dalbello's well-argued essay proposing to insinuate historical viewpoints more actively into the LIS curriculum. Her remarks accurately summarize the current debate on the role of history in library science education and the role the history of the book can and should play in library education. Dalbello's comments are worth pondering for all LIS faculty. Finally, Richard Cox and his colleagues elucidate the history of archival education in the United States in a far-ranging piece that discusses the evolution of archival instruction within the framework of the more-established LIS programs during the twentieth century. (43)

Feminist, Ethnic, and Multicultural Librarianship

The literature in this section divided pretty evenly between histories about women and librarianship and those devoted to the development of libraries oriented to non-whites. The major work by far is the monograph by Reinette Jones that details the history of library service to the Kentucky African-American community since the Civil War. Jones has published a series of articles over the years detailing Kentucky's ethnic library history, and now she has put it all together in an impressive book based on extensive research in both primary and secondary sources. Jones points to the leadership role Kentucky libraries took in the difficult years of desegregation in the late 1950s and early 1960s. By 1962 the Kentucky Library Association could announce that its organization was completely integrated, which put it in the vanguard toward promoting library services to all races. (44)

Another interesting recent contribution explores the growth of collections relating to African-American subjects at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). The author, Irene Owens, was inspired to conduct her well-crafted study after being invited to review Mark Tucker's edited set of essays in his Untold Stories. In a rather unusual place for library history—the Journal of Library Administration—Owens provides

an extensive review of the HBCU institutions and their libraries, explaining the various factors that affected library growth and development. For anyone interested in delving into this topic, Owens has created a fine place to start! Less sophisticated, but still useful, is Gloria Spooner's brief piece on the early years of library service to African-Americans in Louisiana. In just a few pages, Spooner gallops across the history of twentieth century Louisiana librarianship for minorities. (45)

Two well-known African-American librarians are subjects of biographical essays. Dorothy Porter Wesley, the first African-American woman to receive an MLS from Columbia University and long-time curator of the Moorland-Spangarn Collection at Howard University, is the focus of an exhibition and its accompanying booklet sponsored by the Broward County, Florida, Library Bienes Center for the Literary Arts. Arno Bontemps, who is probably more famous as an author than as a librarian, has recently been the focus of a doctoral dissertation by Joseph Downing Thompson, Jr., who is the director of the John Hope Franklin Research Center at Syracuse University. In a short profile published by the Syracuse Library, Thompson discusses his experiences researching the life of Bontemps, whose papers are housed at the Syracuse University Library. (46)

A very important collection of essays relating to women and librarianship appeared in 2000, but was not included in the last review essay. I want to correct this oversight by alerting my readers to this British publication edited by Kerlake and Moody entitled Gendering Library History that contains a wonderful plethora of writings on various aspects of women and their library world. Paul Sturges introduces the volume with a nice overview of the topic. Other authors include Mary Niles Maack with a comparative piece entitled "Telling Lives: Women Librarians in Europe and America at the Turn of the Century," (pp. 57-81), and Val Williamson's interesting "The Role of the Librarian in the Reconfiguration of Gender and Class in Relation to Professional Authorship," (pp. 163-78). This is a cogently presented volume and one that easily belongs on the short shelf of monographs discussing libraries and women. (47)

Smaller studies provide some interesting observations. For example, Kate Larson explores the intellectual life of Jewish and Italian working class girls in Boston, who under the tutelage of the local librarian, establish a reading club in the early twentieth century that fosters upward mobility through educational attainment. Hur-li Lee tackles the challenges presented to embryonic women's studies programs and their related library collections during the last quarter of the twentieth century. Finally, in a fascinating piece in a rather unusual source, Palmer and Malone investigate how the

topic of “woman” has been treated within the cataloging and classification structures of twentieth century knowledge organization. This is an impressive analytical performance, which sets into a larger intellectual and philosophical context the role of women both in society and in librarianship and provides plenty of food for thought. (48)

Technical Services, Preservation, and Technology

Every newbie librarian has probably heard of the Farmington Plan, which began in the 1940s as a way for large research libraries to gather comprehensively the world’s scholarly output. Now we have an exceedingly competent history of this great effort. Written first in 2000 as a dissertation under the direction of Donald Krummel, Ralph Wagner’s thorough history traces the tortuous path this collection development dream took from planning stages to its implementation to finally its slow dénouement in the early 1970s. Well written and well presented, this is first class historical scholarship. (49)

If one considers the Wagner book as representing the acquisitions aspects of technical services, then we turn next to treatments of cataloging. The Library of Congress published a brief history of its Cataloging in Publication Program, which is useful primarily as a good summary of what actually happened. (50) Perhaps a bit more philosophical than historical, two recent books examine the intellectual foundations of cataloging practice as it developed over the decades. Richard Smiraglia delves into the basic question of how we provide a bibliographic description of a “work.” In so doing he surveys the evolution of cataloging rules and regulations giving attention to the thinking of such cataloging greats as Seymour Lubetzky and others. Meanwhile Hope Olson tackles the topic of how subject cataloging emerged from the early thinking of Dewey and Cutter and eventually evolved into those well-known massive red four volumes called the Library of Congress Subject Headings. Both Smiraglia and Olson demonstrate impressive erudition in their books. Finally, a recent collection of the writings of Seymour Lubetzky who profoundly shaped the course of twentieth century cataloging has been published and is well worth a look. (51)

Two recent articles explore the historical background to the application of technology to reference and database searching. Joseph Straw goes back to the 1930s in his essay on the use of technology in assisting patrons in their research efforts. Even we historians might sometimes forget

that as early as the 1950s computers were beginning to organize data, such as the numeric databases of the 1950 census (of course, some of this census data is no longer retrievable because of software obsolescence, but that is another story). Straw surveys to steady evolution of database software such as DIALOG, ORBIT and BRS through the CD-ROM revolution of the 1980s and up to our current fascination with the Internet. Nicely complementing Straw's piece is Farber and Shoham's well-presented overview of the relationship of online searching and the inexorable shift from the librarian providing this service to the patron doing their own searching. In a little bit different venue, Thornton and Warmann help us understand how access services have incorporated technology during the past decade. (52)

Wrapping up this section, I must not forget to point out Foster Stockwell's A History of Information Storage and Retrieval, which canvasses the entire history of the subject from the ancient world to the present. For a work that is only 200 pages in length, Stockwell had to gallop across the centuries, and thus could only summarize the host of topics under his purview. Plus his bibliography is remarkably weak for such an ambitious project. Still, at least he makes an effort, and maybe others will follow who can dig deeper into the historical layers for a more sophisticated analysis. And of course the Internet continues to fascinate scholars. Barry Leiner and a host of co-authors fashion a brief history as part of a larger work that examines its impact on library services. Finally, Vidmar and Anderson write a compact history of the evolution of Internet search tools, which began with the early 1990s introduction of Gopher and Archie software and now encompass dozens of quite powerful search engines including Google and Metacrawler among others. (53)

Biography

For some reason we had a little explosion of biographically oriented books and articles this time around. I am not sure why and I really care: it is simply nice to see. To start with we have a major new biography of Eric Moon, now 80, who as editor of Library Journal led a rabble-rousing crusade against the numerous social inequities of American culture during our tempestuous sixties. Solidly researched and based on both print resources as well as numerous interviews, Kister—a well-known evaluator of encyclopedias—has produced a remarkable and valuable study of one of our most significant activists. Although not an historian by training or

avocation, Kister is an informed researcher who understands the meaning of context and the nuances inherent in his resources. This is an important work for all of us. (54)

What would we do if we didn't have a biography of Andrew Carnegie come out at least every couple of years? We may never know, because they just keep coming out. This time around Peter Krass has produced a doorstopper of a book—coming in at over 600 pages—which incorporates some of the newest literature on the little Scotsman's life and times. I cannot imagine anyone needing to go much beyond this latest biography, since it appears to exhaustively cover each one of Carnegie's busy days on earth. (55)

As far as pure library history, we cannot do much better than a collection of essays put together recently by Donald G. Davis, Jr. Three of our most prominent contemporary historians contributed their interpretations of Winsor, Dewey and Putnam for a 2001 session of the IFLA Round Table on Library History published as part of the University of Illinois GSLIS Occasional Papers series. Kenneth Carpenter tackles Justin Winsor while Wayne Wiegand shares his vast knowledge of Dewey and Jane Aiken explains Herbert Putnam's days at the Boston Public Library. Although a small pamphlet, these essays reflect mature historians working at the top of their game. (56)

Two of our former Librarians of Congress received notice recently. Daniel Boorstin is the subject of an extensive annotated bibliography of his astonishing array of publications. Angela Leonard's book is bereft of any narrative about his life, but nonetheless contains reference to every word Boorstin ever wrote! In contrast, William MacLeish's autobiography is nothing but narrative and is a sprightly account of growing up in the household of the dynamic and mercurial elder MacLeish. Uphill with Archie provides fascinating insights into what life was like living in Washington, D.C. and rubbing elbows with all sorts of famous Washingtonians who knew Archibald, such as Felix Frankfurter, whom he referred to as the "Li'l Jestiss." (57)

Other book-length biographical efforts include a collection of the essays produced by Roger E. Stoddard, who is Curator of Rare Books in the Harvard College Library and a small autobiography by Stephen Akey, who recounts his banal life as an entry-level librarian working for the Brooklyn Public Library. (58) Two shorter works by long-time library practitioners have some merit, especially as primary sources for larger studies. Ruth C. Carter relates her trials and tribulations as the editor for Cataloging & Classification Quarterly and the Journal of Internet

Cataloging. And Marcia Tuttle, whose name is synonymous with serials, tells the story of her three decades as a serials librarian at North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Both of these women survey the evolution of their professional involvement and contribution to librarianship during the last decades of the twentieth century. (59)

I will conclude this section by pointing quickly to an autobiographical essay authored by Eugene Garfield, the father of various standard citation indexes, a brief essay by Haynes McMullen that outlines his professional career as a library historian. Although brief, they can provide information about these two individuals that may be helpful to later historians. (60)

Reading, Printing, and Publishing

We are now at the point in this essay where things could get out of control. The veritable avalanche of literature devoted to the study of print culture could aptly be described as the monster that ate Pittsburgh. In an effort to keep things under control, I have rigorously pared down the number of items in this section to something manageable, although my readers may be inclined to think I was still not selective enough to suit their patience. Nevertheless, let us see if I can hit the high points of the most important representative writings and least provide a little guidance to this vast literature.

There exists a gentle tension between the old bibliographic view of book studies that focuses on the book as an object and the new scholarship of the past couple of decades that attempts to investigate the larger issue of print as a cultural medium in all its manifestations. All who are new to this topic are truly blessed with the recent publication of two collections of readings that help chart a reliable course. Finkelstein and McCleery have edited a foundational work with introductory essays by such luminaries as Darnton, McKenzie, and Chartier who shine learned lights into the darkness of just what exactly book history is. Their volume is ably complemented by an American-oriented work edited by Casper, Chaison, and Groves. Between these two outstanding contributions the discerning reader will obtain a sure understanding of the current print culture landscape. (61)

Turning to the rest of the publications in this section, I will start first with works that deal with the history of publishing, followed by those that treat the history of reading. Chandler and Cortada, two famous scholars of business history, edited a noteworthy set of essays in 2000 that provide an exceedingly broad perspective of how information was produced and

consumed in our nation's history. For those desiring a reliably crafted picture within which to set the history of publishing in this country, the Chandler-Cortada book is a good place to start. Another broadly conceived contribution that surveys a half-millennia of publishing history—though with few sources cited—is Rostenberg and Stern's From Revolution to Revolution: Perspectives on Publishing & Bookselling, 1501-2001. Both authors have published extensively on publishing history, and this small tome distills their collective wisdom in less than 200 pages. (62)

In yet another edited compendium, Richard Abel and Lyman Newlin have gathered together a stable of writers to pontificate on the history of publishing in the past century with special attention to the relationship between libraries and the publishing business. This orientation should not be a surprise given Abel's pioneering involvement in the nexus between libraries and those who produce what we collect. The scientific disciplines fostered our earliest modern serial publications, and the more recent past is the subject of a set of essays edited by Fredriksson. Finally, one cannot discuss the history of printing without at least passing reference to that printer *primus inter pares*—Johann Gutenberg—who is the subject of two recent books that celebrate his singular accomplishments. (63)

Specific types of publications received their usual spate of attention this time. The lowly paperback was the subject of a huge glitzy new study by Richard Lupoff replete with hundreds of colorful illustrations surrounding a lively text. If nothing else, Lupoff's book is fun to look through, but don't let the popularized style fool you: this is an important work on a neglected area of book culture. Serial publications also came in for their share of investigation. David Nord provides a serious look at the history of American newspapers in a deeply research work published by the University of Illinois Press. On the more popular side we have book-length treatments of Classics Illustrated, Life Magazine, and that bane of all celebrities—National Enquirer. A shorter piece by David Clark examines the history of the venerable literary journal Books Abroad/World Literature Today. (64)

For years Robert Armstrong has been writing about the world of publishing in the old West, and this time he turns his busy research engine in the direction of the territorial Southwest with an essay on publishing events in mid-nineteenth Nevada. On the other end of the continent, Matt Cohen explains how publishing got started in Colonial New England. Both essays are extensively researched and bear the characteristics of mature scholarship. (65) We can learn more about how specific publishing houses developed through such writings as Ezra Greenspan's large study of the House of

Putnam, or through a perusal of Eric Lupfer's two essays on the impact that Houghton Mifflin's nature books had on reading in the early twentieth century. Similarly Jay Satterfield provides a well-crafted history of the well-known publisher—Modern Library and its growth from the early 1920s to the present. Peter Adams summarizes the historiography of scholarship on the performance of the book trade during the last two-thirds of the twentieth century. Also worthy of attention is John Spencer Walters' well-constructed history of government publishing between 1820 and 1920. Finally, Bill Katz recently edited a slew of essays focused on how libraries have intersected with both books and readers. For example, Kenneth Shearer remarks on the durability of the book as a format, while Lee Shiflett muses about the future of the book. Katz' collection is worthy of close examination. (66)

The history of reading has been steadily generating a good amount of scholarship these days with no sign of abating. Indeed, my challenge is to keep my references in this section to a minimum so this essay can come to an end within a reasonable space! The major work here is Christine Pawley's study of the reading habits of the inhabitants of Osage, Iowa. Pawley has conducted groundbreaking research with the circulation records of the local public library, but her research is more sophisticated than that as she delves into all the forms of print communication at the disposal of Osage's citizenry. All of this set within the larger theoretical framework of current research on reading and its cultural role. In an essay published in the 2002 issue of Book History Pawley expands her discussion to include recent work she has done on readers in rural Wisconsin. Taken together these two contributions are exceedingly important intellectual markers on our path toward obtaining a better understanding of reading and the role of the public library in America. (67)

Those seeking a broader view will be pleased by Ryan and Thomas' edited set of essays that investigate the act of reading over a period of a century and a half from the standpoint of several academic disciplines. The editors bring together both historians and literary scholars, as well as other social scientists, who share their expertise while grappling with the thorny questions of why and what we read—or did read as the case may be. For our benefit, and especially for those who are new to the whole topic, Peter Burke updates Robert Darnton's classic "History of Reading," (1986) in the second edition of his New Perspectives on Historical Writing. The reading habits of homefront Americans during the Civil War interest the indefatigable and prolific Zborays, who contribute a chapter in a recent volume that focuses on civilian life during that awful conflict. (68)

People have been gathering together to share reading experiences for a long time. But most of the existing scholarship focuses on white reading. Elizabeth McHenry adds a well-documented study that explores in exhaustive fashion African-American literary societies beginning with late eighteenth century slave communities and progressing up and through the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. This is an exceedingly well-done study and one that opens up a whole new vista on the landscape of reading history. In a little different vein Holly Willett traces the intriguing story of Charlemae Hill Robbins' efforts to have text that was racially objectionable changed in the 1958 Newbery Medal book, Rifles for Watie. What is most interesting, as Willett points out, is that Robbins had concerns about some racial stereotypes, but ignored others. In so doing Robbins reflected the evolution of change in racial descriptions as we entered the Civil Rights era. (69)

The making of lists knows no end, and this is true for best books. For much of the twentieth century Publishers Weekly provided a list of best sellers each week. Michael Korda, a top editor at Simon & Schuster, has compiled these lists for the past century—decade by decade—and accompanied them with a simplistic narrative that does little more than generally describe the contents of each list. While Korda's effort is not very worthwhile—he appears innocent of any of the scholarly literature on the history of reading—he has done us a service by gathering together in one place all the best sellers, which someone now can analyze with the care and sophistication the topic deserves! Bill Katz, in the volume mentioned earlier, contributes a chapter written with his usual verve on the history of how librarians have promoted the idea of best books and quality reading. Though short, Katz's essay contains some interesting observations. Finally, DeNel Sedo reviews the astonishing impact of Oprah Winfrey's book club on both book sales and on the entire reading club culture at the end of the twentieth century. (70)

The concluding part of this section includes a plethora of items that don't fit easily within either reading or publishing history. For example, I can't forget to alert my readers to the huge and colorful volume on the history of writing edited by Anne-Marie Christin. This remarkable book traces the development of this fundamental human activity through the ages and throughout the world. It is a really neat source! Anyone interested in the philosophy of written communication will benefit from Julian Warner's slim volume called Information, Knowledge, Text. Warner's book is nicely complemented by Ronald Day's scholarly assessment of how information is created and used in contemporary society. And for those enamored of the

artistic aspects of books, whether it be in their bindings or within their pages, we can learn from the contents of a recent work edited by James Bettley, which if nothing else is quite pretty to look through. (71)

Sidney Landau updates the original 1984 edition of his landmark history of dictionaries, once again providing more than most folks would probably ever need to know about this important enterprise. Paul Gutjahr explores the publishing history of the Bible and other sacred texts in an insightful article in Book History. The humble footnote (or endnote), without which this essay would be impossible to write, receives its historical due in a charming little book by Chuck Zerby. And finally, Nicholas Basbanes, who educated us a few years back on the zany antics of bibliophiles, continues to share with the rest of us his sustained fascination with the entire culture of books and how and why they are collected. (72)

General Studies

Since my gentle readers have stuck with me this far, I should warn them that this part of the essay is kind of like the proverbial kitchen sink since it contains everything that I couldn't fit in anywhere else. Although there is no particular order to what follows in this far-flung section, I will try to keep similar items together to facilitate the reading process.

By far one of the most controversial events in the library world occurred with the publication of Nicholson Baker's philippic Double Fold, which castigated the library profession for its approach to preservation of newspapers and other printed works through microfilming and other processes. Needless to say, librarians were chagrined at his attacks and responded in numerous editorials, articles, etc. One of the more lengthy rejoinders was crafted by the archivist and educator, Richard Cox, who authored a book that took up Nicholson's criticism point by point. Baker, who has made a career of poking sharp sticks at the library profession, certainly had some good points in his diatribe, but his attack was also at times uninformed and inaccurate. For good or ill, it put library preservation methods and approaches in the spotlight for all to see. (73)

Another significant publication that appeared in 2001 was a special issue of American Studies edited by Augst and Wiegand that features an impressive collection of essays that explore the various aspects of the library as an American cultural agency. Contributors include Elizabeth Jane Aikin on the Library of Congress, Jane Preer on the New York Public Library, and Christine Pawley on the public library in Cold War Wisconsin. Having the

major journal in the discipline of American studies devoted to the history of libraries is quite noteworthy and reflects the gradual spreading of our research into literature beyond the library science sphere. Another excellent gathering of writings that assess libraries in a democratic society is edited by Nancy Kranich and contains, among other items, a nice article by Frederick Stielow reexamining Ditzion's Arsenals of a Democratic Culture. (74)

The untimely passing of Pamela Spence Richards in 1999 has been memorialized in the republication of a special 1998 IFLA conference on libraries and the Cold War that had been organized and led Richards. The proceedings were published in Libraries & Culture, and as a separate monograph in 2001. A number of prominent American library historians gave presentations including Donald G. Davis, Jr., Louise S. Robbins, Mary Niles Maack, Hermina G. B. Anghelescu, and Priscilla C. YU, along with their counterparts from a variety of European nations. This was certainly a worthy publication to honor the Richards' distinguished career. Soviet-American library relations is also the topic of a fine new book by Stephen Karetzky that explores in extensive detail the twists and turns of how American librarians perceived libraries and librarianship in the Soviet Union. (75)

The philosophy of librarianship has engaged some of our best minds recently as is evidenced by John Budd's new book that explores in remarkably clear prose the intellectual history of our profession complete with references to Foucault, Habermas, and other major western philosophers. Budd, who may be his generation's Patrick Wilson, believes the best approach to understanding the thought behind library science is through the use phenomenology. I don't pretend to fully comprehend the complexity of Budd's text, but I do know that his book is worthy of our consideration as a modern critique of the philosophy of librarianship. To be competent historians, we have to be familiar with some of the theoretical underpinnings of our profession. In another shorter essay, Budd also examines Jesse Shera's thought, especially as it pertained to Shera's belief that social epistemology could provide librarianship with the intellectual basis it needed to develop into a legitimate academic discipline. (76)

Completing this part on library philosophy, I want to point out two other recent books that warrant attention. (76) Helen Longino treats the broader topic of knowledge, especially that produced by scientific investigation, and how it is disseminated within a society. Meanwhile, Frank Webster updates his foundational text on how scholars have theorized the production and use of information. (77)

There was an interesting flurry of writings about how librarians and other writers predicted how libraries would look in the future. The major work here is Greg Sapp's annotated bibliography of writings produced from the late nineteenth century that sought to forecast the shape other libraries in either the twentieth or twenty-first century. This literature, of course, provides intriguing insights into how librarians perceived the impact of technology on library functions and how they thought things would either get better or worse. In a similar vein Daniel Liestman looks at how British and American librarians saw the future of their profession as reflected in articles published in the library literature between 1880 and 1920. Liestman noted that even at the end of the nineteenth century librarians envisioned the eventual creation of a national catalogue along the lines of what would eventually become OCLC. Katherine Pennavaria expands this topic with her investigation of how books and libraries in the future were represented in the works of popular writers such as Ray Bradbury, Edward Bellamy, Aldous Huxley, or George Orwell, and of course, Vannevar Bush. (78)

The issue of censorship also received some serious attention with a new edition of Paul Boyer's Purity in Print, which was first published in 1968. Boyer extends his survey of censorship from its original ending date of the 1940s to include the steady acceptance of erotic and sexual descriptions in books and periodicals that reflected the changing mores of the 1960s. Purity in Print is an exceedingly important book written by a prominent mainstream historian and a worthy initial volume in Danky and Wiegand's new series Print Culture History in Modern America. (79) Edward Cline surveys the history of censorship in a nicely constructed essay for the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science. Similarly, Tony Doyle examines the history of censorship in America as it related to the development of the ALA's defense of intellectual freedom that first occurred with the promulgation of its 1939 Bill of Rights. Finally, Derek Jones has edited a massive four-volume encyclopedia devoted to all aspects of censorship, which should help fill in the contextual blanks for historians. (80)

In this digital era protecting one's intellectual property is becoming an increasing concern, and two new books provide the historical context for this issue. Of the two, Edward Samuels' The Illustrated Story of Copyright is a more popular approach replete with numerous photographs demonstrating how copyright of both the image and the text has been an issue for decades. More scholarly, but not necessarily any better overall, is Vaidhyanathan's Copyrights and Copywrongs, which provides a cultural history of American copyright law. Both books are good at what they do and would assist us in

understanding the historical background to this ongoing challenge for the libraries. (81)

The relationship of Christianity to American librarianship is the subject of Mark Tucker's thoughtful essay in a recent issue of The Christian Librarian. Tucker delves into the impact that Christian thought and faith had on the development of libraries over the centuries. In so doing he provides the uninitiated reader with a different perspective on the role that Christianity on the growth and evolution of western libraries. Tucker joins with Donald G. Davis, Jr. for an interesting paper that explores the lives of librarians who had strong Christian roots that was given at a 2002 American Christian Librarians conference. (82) The role that religion plays in the shaping of libraries and library services is an intriguing one and deserves a great deal more attention from historians.

Winding up this essay are several items that fall nowhere else, but merit consideration nonetheless. Robert Waite considers the fate of millions of books that the Nazis pillaged during the throes of World War II. Within a few years nearly all had been returned to their rightful owners, except for about 150,000 unclaimed volumes that were then distributed by the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. to libraries in the United States. On a less somber note, Gary Church surveys how librarians have been perceived over the years in an essay that will produce an equal share of chuckles and grimaces. Robert Nardini, who is a senior vice president of Yankee Book Peddler, investigates the ways librarians used the terminology of more established professions in business and industry to promote the library profession and recruit new members during the ALA's first half-century. This is an exceedingly interesting article, which I recommend for the insights Nardini provides into our use of language to enhance how want ourselves viewed by others. (83)

Larry Willmore takes a look at how western governments have coped with the proliferation of systems of communication beginning with Gutenberg's printing press and culminating with the far-flung Internet. Michael Lorenzen's focuses more narrowly on the evolution of American librarianship in a well-documented—and short—essay for Illinois Libraries. And Barbara Jeffus takes us on a quick tour of the history of school libraries (we could sure use more sophisticated historical studies of that significant segment of American librarianship!) Finally, finally, we have the recent appearance of two valuable books devoted to the craft of archival administration and management, both guided by Richard Cox's sure hand. (84)

Conclusion

As we move resolutely into the twenty-first century the state of American library history is healthy. I did not count exactly, but I estimate that this essay probably covers nearly 200 writings of all types. And for that we can be proud. Oh sure, we still await worthy general histories of the American public or academic library—and a new history of the American Library Association would also be nice—but we can celebrate a brace of good recent books by Toby Graham, Toni Samek, Reinette Jones, Ralph Wagner, and Christine Pawley, just to name a few, that lay the historiographical foundation for a new generation of scholars. Most importantly we all need to acquaint ourselves with the dialogue that has developed between Davis and Aho and Black about our historiographical future. As always, we need to continue to delve into our archives while never losing sight of the larger American historical framework within which libraries have always been situated. The role of books, reading, and readers and how they relate to the library as a cultural agency is an intellectual frontier that remains largely unexplored in the American context. There is still plenty to do, so let's get busy!

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Notes

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2. Beverly Southgate, History: What and Why?: Ancient, Modern, and Postmodern Perspectives 2nd ed. (London: Routledge, 2001); Arthur Marwick, The New Nature of History: Knowledge, Evidence, Language (Chicago, IL: Lyceum Books, Inc, 2001); Gabriel Ricci, Time Consciousness: The Philosophical Uses of History (New Brunswick, NJ:

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