

BOOK NOTICES

W.J. Hutchins. *Machine translation: past, present, future*. Chichester: Horwood, 1986. 382 pp. £39.95. ISBN 0-85312-788-3.

Hutchins has provided a detailed historical study of machine translation from its beginnings immediately after the Second World War until its state of development today. In the 1950s research into the development of computer systems to translate from one natural language into a second language was heavily funded. Early expectations were not fulfilled, however, and by the late 1960s research funding was drastically reduced. In the 1970s interest in machine translation was revived and operational systems were developed for use in industry, commerce and government; as Hutchins comments, "Machine translation is no longer a dream, it is a reality". All the major machine translation systems are discussed, often in some detail, with examples of their translation output. The book has a good index.

Klaus-Dieter Lehmann and Hilde Strohl-Goebel, eds. *The application of micro-computers in information, documentation and libraries*. Amsterdam: North-Holland, 1987. (Contemporary topics in information transfer Vol. 4). 813 pp. ISBN 0-444-70135-4.

This volume contains about one hundred papers presented at the *Second International Conference on the Application of Micro-Computers in Information, Documentation and Libraries* which took place in Baden-Baden (Fed. Rep. Germany) in March 1986. The papers are grouped into the following broad categories: Complex Systems, Specific Application in Libraries, Application Software, Existing Systems, Electronic Publishing, Application in Specific Disciplines, Decision Making Criteria and Economic Aspects, Education and Training, Image Processing, Expert Systems, Networks, Systems Requirements, Special Problems in Developing Countries, Workstations, Database Management. Also included are an alphabetical list of participants at the Conference, a list of participants by country (51 countries were represented), a list of exhibitors, an author index and a subject index.

Lutz Hüttemann, ed. *Librarianship and documentation studies: a handbook of teaching and learning materials*. Volume 1. Bonn: Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung, 1985.

Published as part of the policy of the West German Foundation for International Development to assist development of library and information work in the Eastern

and Southern African subregion, there could be some confusion over the contents of the book, given its title. Aimed to serve as a basic tool for training information personnel at certificate and diploma level throughout the countries of the region, it is a collection of nine separate essays on a variety of topics of relevance to those countries. Subjects include information needs of small-scale business enterprises in Botswana; information services for current research in the Sudan; interlibrary lending in East Africa; provision of appropriate reading material for school children in Southern Africa etc. The contributions are largely descriptive and practically oriented, rather than theoretical, and are clearly meant to provide appropriate illustrative discussion and examples for students. In that sense they are teaching and learning materials. It is hoped that further volumes of this nature will be produced.

Lutz Hüttemann, ed. *Manpower training needs: proceedings and papers of the Information Experts Meeting, 18–21 March 1985, Harare, Zimbabwe*. Bonn: Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung, 1985. 159 pp.

Proceedings of a meeting attended by twenty-two experts from Eastern and Southern African countries to discuss three major topics: National Information Policies, Manpower Training Needs, and Teaching Materials, with special reference to the Information and Documentation Training Programme of the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), the Training Programme of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) and the Programme Directions of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).