

BOOK NOTICES

ALEXANDRIA: The journal of national and international library and information issues. Editor: Maurice Line. Gower and the British Library. Volume 1, Number 1, May 1989. 3 issues per year. £75 pa (Europe). ISSN 09557490.

This new journal, edited by Maurice Line, ex-Director General of the British Library (Science, Technology and Industry), assisted by an Editorial Board of eight technical and twelve editorial advisers, claims to be the only journal to devote itself to national library and international policy issues. It is intended, according to the editor, that the journal will be international in scope and that one article in each issue will examine a particular national library and that there will be an annual review of developments in national libraries.

The first issue of 58 pages contains a review of the literature covering 89 items, mostly published in 1987 and 1988, together with articles on the international MARC network, the National Library of Venezuela, Open Systems Interconnection and networking strategies, and Conspectus in the United Kingdom. Future articles promised include cooperative microfilming, performance measures for national bibliographic services, retrospective conversion and repository planning in the FDR and the Bibliothèque Nationale of France.

Blaise Cronin and Neva Tudor-Silovic, eds. *Information resource management: concepts, strategies, applications. Proceedings of the International Seminar on Information Resource Management, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, June 1–5 1989.* London: Taylor Graham, 1989. 93 pp. £18. ISBN 0947568417.

Eight papers from the conference, which the editors hoped would help ‘... to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and experience across the great North–South divide,’ are published. They are: Information resource management for rural communities in Zambia: implications for national information policy formulation (Maurice Lundu); Globalisation in the information and communication industries (Blaise Cronin); The Yugoslavia biomedical information system (Stefan Adamic); Value added and data services; a UK perspective (Forbes Gibb); The information advantage (Donald King and Jose-Marie Griffiths); Applications of interactive videodisc technology as demonstrated by Project Emperor—I (Ching-Chih Chen); A systems approach to industrial survey research (Claude Martin); and Information management in an academic environment (Margarita Almada De Ascencio).

***Encyclopaedia of information systems and service.* 9th ed. Detroit: Gale Research, 1989. 3 vols. \$420. ISBN 0-8103-2646-9.**

This is a truly massive work comprising more the 2,300 pages devoted to the electronic information and publishing industries. It provides descriptions of 4,250 information organizations, systems and services of international, national or regional scope and identifies over 30,000 information products and services. Coverage is geographically divided: Vol. 1 deals with the United States while Vol. 2 covers the rest of the world (though it is the slimmer of the two volumes). Arrangement is alphabetically by organization name (in the case of foreign-language names arrangement is by English translation). Entries contain the address and telephone (but not fax) number, the year established, the number of staff, any related organization, a description of the system or service, scope, input sources, storage media, publications, microform products and services, computer-based products and services, any other services, clientele, projected publications and services, any additional remarks and a named contact in the organization.

Vol. 3 contains the indexes. The following are included: Master Index (all organizations, systems, products and services), Database Index, Publications Index, Software Index, Personal Name Index, Geographic Index and Subject Index (based on a modified Library of Congress subject heading list). A classification is also provided which classifies organizations, systems and services into 23 categories.

C. Marlin Brown. *Human—computer interface design guidelines.* Norwood: Ablex, 1988. 236 pp. £27.95. ISBN 0-89391-332-4.

Intended to aid designers of the interface between computer systems and their users, the book draws upon evidence from experiments, predictions from theories of human performance, principles of cognitive psychology, principles of ergonomic design and evidence gathered through engineering experience. The author cites a number of potential benefits for users of his guidelines, including reduced training, reduced errors, increased efficiency and increased user satisfaction.

The book comprises ten sections: general human—computer interface concepts; designing display formats; effective wording; colour; graphics; dialogue design; data entry; control and display devices; error messages and online assistance; and implementation of human—computer interface guidelines.

***Online database search services directory: a reference and referral guide to more than 1700 libraries, information firms and other sources, providing computerised information retrieval and associated services using publicly available online databases.* 2nd ed. Edited by Doris Morris Maxfield. Detroit: Gale Research, 1988. 1,268 pp. \$155. ISBN 0-8103-2114-9.**

This directory is intended for the user to decide which organizations to approach in order to acquire online information via organizations in the US and Canada. The

second edition contains 50% more entries than its predecessor. Section 1 deals with the United States; organizations are listed by state. Section 2 covers Canada and the arrangement is by province. A typical entry gives the organization's name, address and telephone (but not fax) number; date of establishment; key contact person; number of staff conducting searches; approximate annual search activity; online systems accessed; subject areas searched; frequently searched databases; access hardware; associated services (like interlibrary loans and manual literature searching); who can use the service; charging policy; search personnel, search request procedure; and any remarks (such as an E-mail address). More than half the volume comprises indexes by organization/subject (25 broad subject categories are used); by online systems accessed; by databases search; and by search personnel. The data were collected by survey responses from 1,002 academic libraries, 158 public libraries, 428 special libraries and 157 information-on-demand firms.