1. the cryptic commentary for each entry requires an intimate knowledge of AACR2R, Library of Congress rule interpretations, and other tools, so it will be difficult for novices to decipher and absorb;
2. the historical narrative is told from the author's perspective, which is, quite naturally, subjective and should not be considered the "last word" on the subject;
3. a substantial proportion of the material in this book has appeared in the author's other works, giving readers familiar with them a sense of deja vu; and,
4. the traditional binding prevents opening the book flat for use at the terminal or the study desk.

On balance, however, the positive attributes outweigh the negative ones, in this reviewer's opinion. The book is recommended for purchase by any librarian cataloging software for the first time, by veteran catalogers unsure they are conforming to standard practices; and by library/information science students learning how to organize and control collections of microcomputer software. At a cost of approximately ten cents per page, readers certainly will get their money's worth.

REFERENCES

1. *A Manual of AACR 2 Examples for Microcomputer Software and Video Games* (Lake Crystal, Minn.: Soldier Creek Press, 1983).
2. *A Manual of AACR 2 Examples for Microcomputer Software*, 2nd ed. (Lake Crystal, Minn.: Soldier Creek Press, 1986).

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Library School Closings: Four Case Studies. M. PARIS. The Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, NJ (1988). 176 pp. $20.00. ISBN 0-8108-2130-3.

This volume is a popularized version of the author's doctoral dissertation at Indiana University. The title reflects both the topic and methodology used in analyzing the closing of programs of library science at four institutions. Selecting two public and two private institutions, Ms. Paris used the Vanderbilt Model of decision-making, which poses several questions important to the consideration of abandoning academic programs. To the six objectives listed in that Model, the author adds five of her own which are culled from the literature and from discussions with individuals involved in the closed programs.

Four closed programs are then considered using those as guidelines. In each of the four cases the author identified several issues common to all; among them evidence of financial crises, "turf" issues, and isolation from the rest of the institution in the view of the administrators.

Although one should not speculate about which four are profiled, of the eleven schools closed during the decade, anyone familiar with library education can easily identify the four cases by comments, situations, and details.

The cases are well written and filled with intrigue. The thin volume contributes to the history of library education and should find its place in any library which maintains a collection of professional literature.

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Basic Statistics for Librarians. 3RD EDITION. I. S. SIMPSON. Library Association, London (1988). xvi + 242 pp. $25.00. ISBN 0-85157-406-8.

Simpson states in his preface that the purpose of *Basic Statistics for Librarians* is "to give to librarians who are new to the subject an appreciation of statistics, its methods and applications" (p. vii). He also writes that it is intended as a text to provide students with "sufficient familiarity with statistical methods to enable them to understand their utilization in specialized areas of study..." (p. viii). Thirdly, Simpson notes that practicing librarians and information scientists may find that his book will serve as an introduction to more advanced works on statistics. A review of the book suggests

that the key words in those stated purposes are "appreciation," "familiarity," and "introduction." With those three terms as caveats, the work does meet its objectives fairly well. It does not, nor does it purport to, provide all of the detailed information one would need to be a self-sufficient statistician.

Part I of the book is devoted to basic methods for presenting quantitative data, and some of the chapters in that section do indeed serve as useful introductions to certain statistical techniques. The coverage of graphs is particularly good. On the other hand, a number of techniques and concepts are treated rather cursorily. For example, Simpson discusses standard deviation but never provides a basic definition beyond "the points of inflection" on a normal curve (p. 26). He states that "basing calculations on observations of a whole population *ensures* (reviewer's underscoring) accuracy of the result . . . " (p. 37) without reminding the reader of the many factors that can result in inaccurate results even when the entire population is observed. In his section on random sampling techniques, the author deals exclusively with simple random samples selected using tables of random numbers. He only briefly identifies other sampling techniques—ones he considers to be non-random; though one could argue that systematic and stratified samples, if not cluster, are also random samples. Little information is presented on determining sample size. The sixth chapter provides a generally good explanation of statistical significance but limited coverage of specific tests.

Part II deals with the presentation of qualitative data. Chi-square, as an example of an appropriate technique, is nicely discussed, but one wonders why appropriate measures of the strength of a relationship (e.g. Cramer's V) were not noted. The fourth section discusses a few techniques for analyzing a mix of quantitative and qualitative data. Part V focuses on applications of statistics, but only concerns itself with bibliometrics. It is not clear why bibliometrics was chosen as the principal example of a practical application as it does not seem to be well suited to illustrating what has been covered in the book to that point. (The more briefly described applications provided throughout the text tend to be more useful examples.) The last part of the main text provides brief introductions to certain computer software packages used to analyze data. The author chose to highlight SPSS-X, MINITAB, and VIEWSHEET. Consideration of other packages such as SAS and BMDP and some of the increasingly popular micro-computer programs would no doubt be welcomed by many readers.

In conclusion, *Basic Statistics for Librarians* does represent a useful introduction to statistical techniques. On the other hand, it is too superficial in some areas to serve most readers as a stand-alone text. Persons wanting no more than an appreciation of statistics would be well-advised to supplement Simpson's books with works such as *Statistics: A Spectator Sport*.* Researchers needing to actually analyze data will no doubt need to use one of the standard, more comprehensive texts on statistics as well. But Simpson's book, with its exercises, useful library-related examples, and straightforward language, is certainly of potential value to librarians wishing to learn more about basic statistics. Individuals and libraries already owning the second edition may want to question whether it is necessary to purchase the third edition, however, as its major additions are limited to the section on bibliometrics and the consideration of two more computer packages.

*Richard M. Jaeger, *Statistics; A Spectator Sport* (Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications, 1983).

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