ume may be of greater use to those in the field of library and information science education than to on-the-job managers.

The first part of the book focuses on library education and, among other things, reveals how little is really known about it in any broad sense. Much of the research reported is based on experiences at a single institution or from a limited sample, clearly leaving the impression that research on library education has been very limited and can't be generalized very far. The scope of this section is certainly appropriate, covering as it does 48 headings arranged in alphabetical order.

The second and longer section of the work relates to professional issues. One could quarrel with the selection here (e.g., is bibliometrics a professional issue or a research method?). There is extensive coverage of gender issues and career issues but the exclusion of ongoing and persistent issues such as access to information or intellectual freedom tends to belie the title. One who turned to this section for a systematic exploration of the basic and ongoing issues in the field would be either misled or disappointed. Nevertheless, the treatment of the issues presented is valuable.

Administrators who want a single volume to tell them what is known or not known about the problems they face might find the work less than satisfying. On the other hand, library educators would find it extremely valuable. It should end the common doctoral student complaint, "I can't find any topic to write about," for it reveals a wealth of un- and underresearched topics.

These few criticisms aside, the concept of the volume and the series is very valuable for the field. It is extremely useful to have these research summaries pulled together for the guidance of users. Hopefully, in 5 to 10 years, when this needs to be done again, enough research will have occurred on these two topics to demand separate volumes.

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**Business and Economics Databases Online: Environmental Scanning with a Personal Computer.** C. J. POPOVICH. Libraries Unlimited, Littleton, CO (1987) xviii + 276 pp. $35.00 (U.S.; $42.00 elsewhere). ISBN 0-87287-454-0.

Environmental scanning is a technique, which, according to the author of this book, is now widely used by corporations for assessing the business and technological environment in which they operate. How then, are such corporations to assess this environment and thereby make better strategic decisions? Clearly the use of online databases is a valuable tool.

On this premise, the author proceeds to explain personal computer hardware and software, as well as two major online vendors (DIALOG and I.P. Sharp). He follows with a series of model searches, some of which involve downloading data onto the PC and analyzing it using Lotus 1-2-3. In principle, the instructions could be followed by either a librarian/information officer or, indeed, an end user.

The problem with such a book is its failure to offer the reader any overview of the potential sources of information, or of the various ways information can be accessed. A reader not owning an IBM PC, Smartcom II telecommunications software, or Lotus 1-2-3 will find the detailed and lengthy instructions on how to set up the software or download data meaningless. Even those fortunate enough to already own this hardware and software are not made aware of the wealth of alternatives to DIALOG or I.P. Sharp. Indeed, some of the excellent databases available through these two hosts receive no mention at all.

The book is not a textbook of sources for environmental scanning, or of online searching for business databases. At best, it is a workbook to be used by students or other end users planning their first online searches using unfamiliar equipment and software. In this regard, the book serves some purpose, particularly by helping to explore the applications of the user-unfriendly softwares employed by I.P. Sharp. However, no clues on how to deal with error messages from either host are provided.

It is clear from my comments that reliance on this book alone would lead the reader to conclude — incorrectly — that all that is needed to be known has been described.

The book can only be recommended, therefore, as a workbook accompanied by lectures or other sources to put the very restricted and detailed picture provided by it into a proper perspective.

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