systems, usually limited to an area of one square kilometer or less. This book, a series of articles from *Data Communications* magazine, views local networks through such topics as the bit format for data packets, broadband vs baseband, and other low-level electronic considerations. Written clearly and with an assumption of minimal prior knowledge, this nonacademic work functions well as a "starter" text. *Data Communications* magazine uses effective color graphics; unfortunately, the present work is printed in black and white, and some of the illustrations are reproduced in such a manner that the graphics are far less intelligible than they were originally. More might have been said about how the network might be interfaced to existing systems software and how a potential distributed operating system might be utilized.

Graduate Library School   ROBERT LOSEE
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Microcomputers: A Planning Guide for Librarians and Information Professionals. R. A. WALTON. The Oryx Press, Phoenix, Arizona, (1983). viii + 96 pp., $18.50 (PB), ISBN 0-89774-097-1.

This short work is one of several new books aimed at introducing information specialists to microcomputers. In general, what the book does, it does extremely well. However, its excessive brevity in several areas may give readers misleading or erroneous impressions concerning the concepts discussed.

The book is strongest in its treatment of hardware. Several chapters are given to discussion of CPU, RAM, ROM, parallel and serial interfaces, keyboard and display units, mass storage devices, printers, and other hardware devices, such as disk emulators, spoolers and modems. These are brief, but accurate and clearly written.

The treatment of software concepts is too brief. The chapter dealing with printer installation, for example, discusses physical installation but not the necessary patching of wordprocessing or spreadsheet software required for customization of printers to one's own computer and software (for the novice, often by far the more difficult of the two processes). The reader is left with the impression that all one need do is buy a printer, set a few switches, and plug it in. The chapter introducing software is useful, but succeeding chapters treating operating systems, programming languages and utilities are at best inadequate. Chapter 8 includes a long list of programming languages for microcomputers, consisting almost entirely of assemblers and various versions of BASIC. There is no hint that Pascal, PL/1, COBOL, LOGO, FORTH, C, or other programming languages can be used with microcomputers. Chapter 9, entitled "Microcomputer Utilities," discusses only sort programs and database management systems. Spreadsheet programs, surely of great potential interest to information specialists, are not treated anywhere in the book. Chapter 10 includes a useful listing of names and addresses of vendors marketing software for use by libraries.

The final chapters provide a good introduction to the application of a systems approach to the selection and utilization of microcomputer hardware and software. These are well worth careful study.

The book has no glossary but includes a good index. It can be recommended as a reasonable place to start one's investigation of the use of microcomputers in libraries and information centers, but only in conjunction with one or more additional sources.

School of Library and Information Science   STEPHEN P. HARTER
Indiana University

Quantitative Methods for Library and Information Science. I. K. RAVICHANDRA RAO. Halsted Press, A division of John Wiley & Sons, New York (1983). xi + 271 pp., $24.95, ISBN 0470-27393-3.

It is the hope of the author that the book will be "useful to students, teachers, and also to practicing librarians and information scientists". That is unlikely. It isn't that the subject matter is irrelevant to these audiences, but that the level of presentation is not suitable for a great many students and practitioners. The book is far too formal (mathematical) in its treatment of statistics. I have never understood why any statistics text aimed at applied researchers needs to include mathematical derivations. Certainly it ought to suffice to give the final result, along with a citation as to where the interested reader could find that proof. And, the space saved could be used much better by focusing attention on often neglected aspects of the research/analysis process, such as research design, measurement or pitfalls in interpretation.

A second problem with the statistics portion of the book is the uneven treatment of the various topics. One could question the choice of what was left out (e.g. statistical designs based on more than one independent variable, multiple regression) and what was included (several pages on rather obscure probability distributions). In addition, the book gives no indication of the availability of the computer and canned statistical packages used to carry out the more complicated analyses. Perhaps of more importance is the lack of consistency in the treatment of the subjects included. For example, there is some discussion of when the geometric mean would be useful as a measure of central tendency, but, in the very next section, nothing is given but a formula for the harmonic mean. Or, to give another example, there is explanatory material given for the Poisson distribution, but nothing beyond a formula for the logarithmic. Overall, this first portion of the book is more appropriate as a reference tool for those who already have some intermediate-level grounding in statistics and probability theory.

The final fifth of the book is devoted to bibliometrics. Here the book does a good job of pulling together the various distributions, formulae and studies reported in the literature. This section still contains many mathematical expressions which will be forbidding to many readers. But, there is more explanatory text and consequently it can be useful to many students and professionals, as well as to academic researchers.

The physical characteristics of the book are poor: the binding is suspect, the pages feel old, and the printing is uneven on many pages. The special features of the book include summaries and student exercises in each chapter. At the end of the book there is a bibliography with brief annotations, statistical tables, an index and a list of errata (though not all the errors present have been found).

The book is an ambitious attempt to bring together statistical tools and probabilistic models useful to our field. On those grounds it is to be commended. But it is better suited as a reference work for those already knowledgeable, rather than as a textbook for the beginning student or practicing professional.

School of Information Studies   JEFFREY KATZER
Syracuse University

Education for Information Management, Directions for the Future: Record of a Conference co-sponsored by the Information Institute, International Academy at Santa Barbara and the Association of American Library Schools. E. H. BOEHM and M. K. BUCKLAND (Eds.). The International Academy, Santa Barbara, Calif., (1983) 125 pp., $18.38 (Pb), ISBN 0-9610590-0-1.

This record of a conference has two foci for this reviewer. Having been a participant in the conference, I can affirm that the volume evokes the conference itself—its intensity, camaraderie and intellectual stimulation, and, especially, its camp-meeting atmosphere, where the gospel of information management was preached. Now, several months later, reading the papers allows a more dispassionate view. The bias of the conference is remarkably well-preserved in the printed product. Ten of the 15 addresses are evenly divided between describing or forecasting the nature of the "information revolution" and describing what is needed in the way of information managers and their education. Information management is spoken of as the provision of services and applied systems that aid in making decisions, that, in the words of Fritz Machlup, deal with providing instrumental rather than intellectual or pastime knowledge. Information management is viewed, in other words, as the provision of management information or decision-support systems. In addition, information is treated decisively as an economic commodity necessary to the survival of the nation. That these themes should be the decided emphases of the conference is not strange insofar as each speaker represented either the information products industry directly, industries deeply involved in the use of management information, or educators directly responsive to supplying information that professionals of the kind viewed as necessary. The five other papers presented are in many ways discordant with respect to the main theme. Two (Robert Maloy, Smithsonian Institution, and Robert Warner, U.S. Archivist) speak to the need for information for the preservation of culture, clearly a non-instrumental, non-economic view of knowledge. One (Richard West, University of California at Berkeley) raises a singular call for information management education that stresses deeply humanistic and ethical values. Still another, the keynote address by Berkeley's Michael Buckland, stresses the unity that exists between present library school emphasis on document-access systems and the growing need for experts in data management, rather than simply emphasizing information management by itself. Finally, Brett Butler, speaking to the topic of "Emotion in Information", raises questions about the adequacy of the basic rational model of information transfer that lies beneath most information-systems talk.