

small fraction of these resources. All of the networking required today to access information—some 95 percent of which is not in printed form, according to Michael—makes networking standards imperative. Of these, the most important is Z39.50, a protocol that offers user “interoperability,” the availability of a search-and-display strategy with which the user is familiar. With Z39.50, it is not necessary to learn the search language of the target database; instead one uses the search language of one’s own system. The authors stress that while Z39.50 was originally designed for retrieving bibliographic records, it now extends to abstracts, full text, and images.

This book is recommended for those with little time and a basic knowledge of library automation. Chapter 12 by Hinnebusch is particularly useful as an overview of Z39.50; however, readers should be aware that it was probably written in mid-1994—before the balloting on version 3 of the protocol was completed and work on version 4 began. The treatment on OSI, TCP/IP, and LANs, while extensive, is no better than adequate. There are scores of books and articles that are as good or better.

While the index is very good, there is no glossary and no bibliography. Many terms are not adequately defined in context; therefore, the reader should have a good data processing dictionary handy. Since most of the useful literature on Z39.50 is found in the professional journals, the lack of a bibliography means that a literature search will be required for anyone wishing more details on the protocol.

The layout, typography, and quality of editing are good, although one still wonders whether any book other than a fine edition warrants a price of \$.21 per page.—*Richard W. Boss, Information Systems Consultants Inc.*

Library Information Technology and Networks

By Audrey N. Grosch. New York: Marcel Dekker, 1994. 384p. \$150 (ISBN 0-8247-3971-7).

Originally intended as a revision of Stephen R. Salmon’s *Library Automation Systems*, Grosch’s book expands the scope to include the development of networks as an important factor in library systems. The introductory chapters offer a thoroughly researched overview of the early development of library systems. The role of bibliographic networks and cooperative initiatives are also covered.

Current developments in networking, both local and global, are especially well synthesized despite the fact that at the time of publication, Grosch noted that there were “still relatively few commercial business sites” on the Internet (p. 157). Oh, the difference a few months make in Internet-land! Still, this chapter provides an excellent description of not only the development of the Internet, but also how it actually functions.

The NISO regulating standards, so important for effective systems planning, are also explained in an uncomplicated, narrative style. Hints of future developments such as the Computer Interchange of Museum Information (CIMI) are brief yet tantalizing.

Other chapters cover the library systems marketplace and the factors involved in systems evaluation, procurement, and enhancement. Besides outlining the fundamental questions of platforms and anticipated use, these chapters include an overview of the frills system vendors provide or fail to provide. Noticeably absent, for example, is Notis’s ill-conceived Horizon initiative. New concurrent “multiuser” systems appear to favor UNIX plat-

forms and are still very much in the beta stage, but Grosch offers a good overview of these possibilities as well. More interesting is Grosch’s grasp of the philosophical debate over the issue of proprietorship vs. non-proprietorship of database resources that individual will need to resolve with the growth of their own systems.

Finally, there are more frills to consider: PC-based client software purchased separately to work in tandem with the library system. Once again, Grosch provides an excellent synthesis of leading packages.

Grosch’s book is remarkable for its thorough research, international scope, explicit detail, and value to the professional community with a price to match. It should be considered a standard text for systems planners and students alike.—*Mary Hemmings, University of Calgary Law Library*

Multimedia Technologies for Training: An Introduction

By Ann E. Barron and Gary W. Orwig. Englewood, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited. 1994. 225p. \$29 (ISBN 1-56308-262-4).

This practical and inspiring guide should serve a wide audience. Both authors have solid reputations in the training field and they have put together a book that is easy enough for the novice to understand yet provides sufficient detail for the seasoned trainer to use as a refresher while picking up new ideas and techniques. Also, the book need not be read from beginning to end; each chapter can stand alone and therefore serves well the reader who may only want to learn about video technology or local area networks.

The text is upbeat and positive, continually urging the reader to