
New Automation Technology for Acquisitions and Collection Development. Rosann Bazirjian, ed. New York: Howarth Press, 1995. 207 p. Includes bibliographical references. (Also published as *The Acquisitions Librarian*, no. 13/14) ISBN 1-56024-732-0 (hardcover) \$34.95 (US)

Automated technologies have had a profound influence in library technical services. Most recently, acquisitions departments have had to cope not only with a new iteration of integrated systems, but also with sophisticated vendor systems, the purchase of electronic resources, as well as developments in internal auditing. Acquisitions departments are participating in the dynamic reorganization of their libraries, which has become so much a feature of organizations responding to technological change.

As editor, Rosann Bazirjian has grouped these articles according to themes. First, a series of three articles examines recent developments in automation. An introduction to second generation systems provides an overview of how and why libraries plan systems upgrades. Implementing change within acquisitions is also examined through a case-study of the use of the Joint Application Design (JAD) process at the Indiana University Libraries. Pioneered at IBM, JAD was used to design a prototype for a state-wide acquisitions system in order to achieve efficient processing. Finally, an overview article on serials automation offers a good historical synopsis together with a clear evaluation of current trends.

Next, three articles examine the relationship between libraries and vendors. More specifically, all three articles discuss the potential for library systems interfacing with vendor systems. The first of these articles focuses on Internet connectivity and provides a good overview of past, present and future practices. Many libraries already exploit Internet connections for e-mail, remote log in, FTP, professional news and discussion lists. The author speculates on the use of Internet to download approvals, MARC data, vendor invoices and business information. The second article reviews the decision by the Pennsylvania State University Libraries to realize a partnership with a single vendor in order to capitalize on cataloguing copy and technological developments. A third article provides a useful, albeit subjective, method for assessing vendor performance.

Sandwiched between the technical articles is a series of articles dealing with the need for perpetual change in the face of monumental advances in automation. One might say that acquisitions departments have not had to deal with the challenge of automation in the last two decades to the same extent as cataloguing or reference services. However, the spectre of maintaining computer communication with vendors, participating in the purchase of cataloguing records, maintaining sophisticated links with internal and external account-

ing systems, not to mention purchasing and maintaining a variety of electronic resources, has already changed the acquisitions department. The challenge of retraining staff is only a small part of learning to cope in a new environment. These articles discuss not only the melding of cataloguing and acquisitions but also initiatives that have been launched to involve acquisitions in the provision of inter-library loan services.

The fourth series of articles deals with the purchase of electronic resources for the library. These articles outline the processes involved in planning, funding, selecting, negotiating, ordering, and receiving products ranging from diskettes to online databases. Unfortunately, the articles lack the perspective to discuss in-depth the role of acquisitions vis-a-vis systems development and reference services.

Finally, the last series of articles deals with the prosaic function of accounting. Fortunately, each of the writers has had long experience in accounting procedures and understands the need for built-in checks and security. The need for sound business practices in an automated environment is emphasized, particularly in view of the dreaded audit.

On a note of criticism, although the title includes "collection development", none of the articles treat new technological tools for collections assessment and enhancement in any particular depth.

This collection of articles provides an invaluable source of information for acquisition librarians faced with profound technological changes. Above all, this book outlines the opportunities and resources that will bring acquisitions into the mainstream of library operations.

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The Legal Information Buyer's Guide and Reference Manual 1996.

By Kendall F. Svengalis. Barrington, RI: Rhode Island LawPress, 1996. viii, 582 p. Includes index. ISBN 0-9651032-0-X (softcover) \$79.95 (US) (Rhode Island LawPress, 17 Mosher Dr., Barrington, RI 02806)

I love the *CRIV Sheet*, *The Newsletter of the Committee on Relations with Information Vendors* of the American Association of Law Libraries. It's such a gutsy little rag! So when I discovered that Kendall Svengalis (who had edited the *CRIV Sheet* from 1988 to 1994) had compiled this book, I was naturally predisposed to it. Don't get me wrong. This, in and of itself, was not enough to win me over because, frankly, there is a side of me that just hates works that are merely lists of books. Well, this *Buyer's Guide* is in fact a unique combination of both, and I do like it. Of course it is all American, so if