

## BOOK REVIEW

*Library education across the boundaries of cultures; a festschrift to mark the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Library Science Department, edited by Anis Khurshid, Karachi, University of Karachi - Library Science Department, 1981, xi, 190p. Rs.65 [ \$ 12.00 ] (Revised by B. Guha).*

It is certainly a laudable idea to bring out a good publication on library education to mark the silver jubilee year of a library science school. Such a venture can be an indication of the awareness of the school of its responsibilities. In this context it is gratifying to note that the Library Science Department of Karachi University has been able to bring out this handsome volume of contributions on library education.

The publication has just ten contributions from eminent library educators and an informative introduction by the editor. Among the contributors, one would be delighted to see the name of Jesse H Shera, who writes in his inimitable style on 'Across the boundaries of culture'. From India, P N Kaula has written on 'Teaching pattern of library and information science in India'. While depicting the library education scene, the author has shown his usual apathy for the Information Science course conducted by INSDOC. He could not devote even one full sentence to this course in an account of twelve pages. There is one contribution from Prof Neelameghan along with Patricia B Carino on 'Some user-friendly features of COMPAIS II-A'. This system, as is known, has been designed and developed at the Institute of Library Science, University of Philippines. The user-friendly features in a computerised information system have been very ably presented in this paper.

On the Department of Library Science of the Karachi University, the sponsor and publisher of the present volume, a very informative paper has been contributed by Prof Abdul Moid who was associated with this school since its inception in 1956 and is presently with the Bayero University, Nigeria. Prof Mohammed M Aman of the University of Wisconsin, takes a look at the Muslim world in his contribution 'Library and information science education in the Muslim World'. He laments to say that 'libraries in many Muslim nations remain untouched by the advancements which the profession has witnessed in the last few decades of this century'. In the next contribution, Prof Oli Mohamed, from Malaysia, brings librarianship even closer to Islam. He attempts to investigate the status accorded to knowledge in Islam and its contribution to the development of libraries and librarianship. The author also makes a suggestion for the formation a Congress of Muslim Librarians and Information Scientists to meet the challenges of the information age.

Mrs Poori Soltani writes on the problems of library education in Iran. Very few can be more knowledgeable than her on this topic. Syed Jalaluddin Haider of the Karachi school makes a comparison of library education in Iran and Pakistan, in the next contribution. He assures that while comparing special attention has been paid to only those problems which are shared by the majority of the Third World countries in this field.

The remaining two contributions are from Prof. Harold Goldstein, Florida State University, and Prof P Havard-Williams of the Loughborough University. Prof Goldstein writing on the American library education and library devel-

opment, states, ".....if current American education has anything to contribute to its international relatives, it could well be the 'missionary spirit' of to-day's student/tomorrow's professional staff member who accepts a commitment to continuing professional development", Prof Havard-Williams writes on "Library and information studies: the creation of a department", bringing out in an interesting manner the birth and growth of one of the most important library school, the Department of Library and Informa-

tion Studies of the Loughborough University.

The care that has been taken in the production of the volume is clearly in evidence in the detailed and useful index, covering about 24 pages, that has been appended. This is also a valuable contribution greatly enhancing the value of the publication.

The publication will be of interest to all library educators and an useful addition to all library schools collection.