

action. The editors of this work acknowledge that lawmakers cannot and should not legislate people's attitudes or thoughts concerning issues of race; however, they agree that "contemporary laws or policies ought to recognize that racial differences continue to play a significant role in determining life opportunities."

Affirmative action is just one effort in a long and ongoing struggle to rectify inequality in America. The Supreme Court acknowledged this compelling interest in its recent decision upholding the right of colleges and universities to consider race in admissions decisions, recognizing the need for—and value of—diversity and racial equality in America's system of higher education.—*Kelly C. Rhodes, Appalachian State University.*

***International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science***, 2nd ed. Eds.

John Feather and Paul Sturges. London and New York: Routledge. 2003. 688p. alk. paper, \$195 (ISBN 0415259010). LC 2992-32699.

The second edition of the *International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science* provides, for the most part, comprehensive coverage of issues (e.g., history, policy, library types, library functional areas, client bases, and library services internationally), as well as a range of research areas (e.g., information-seeking behavior). It also includes key individuals, institutions, entities, and concepts (e.g., Internet, personal computer, technology, intellectual property, information theory, and the information society), providing historical, societal, and professional context and additional references for further reading.

As the title suggests, the contributors and consultant editors represent a number of parts of the world, primarily the United States and the United Kingdom, but also other European countries, Africa, Australia, Asia, South America, Canada, and Mexico. In addition to the international representation of the contributors and editors, it is important to note the depth and breadth in professional expertise of this distinguished roster of indi-

viduals whose work has resulted in a substantive contribution to the discipline and the profession. To a great extent, the work achieves the ambitious goals of an international encyclopedia of a profession with a rich history; a profession made more complex by its international reach and regional distinctions.

The critique of such a volume as this inevitably addresses the question of coverage, organization, and ease of use. With regard to the organization and use of the volume, clarity is enhanced by the inclusion of the section entitled "How to Use This Book," as well as by the cross-references, see-also references, and the index. In addition, the book begins with a list of abbreviations and their meanings.

The *Encyclopedia* addresses library and information science (and related) topics as broad as communication and informatics and as specific as Roman libraries in Africa and library associations in Central America. As might be expected, some tangential terms, such as Web master, are defined in less detail than are others.

It is unrealistic to assume that any one volume could provide complete and even coverage of library systems and services on all continents and in all countries. Thus, one concern relates to the fact that the discussion of library history, services and challenges, policies, legislation, and client bases is not always even across continents and countries, with some entries providing greater detail than others.

In addition, one of the challenges associated with a volume that covers such a broad international scope is the use of terminology by authors from one country that may be either less familiar or differently interpreted by those in other countries. For example, the description of libraries as one of a number of cultural industries involves the use of two terms that have different meanings and different interpretations and, to provide adequate clarity, would likely require more attention than is appropriate in an encyclopedic entry.

The discussion of codes of professional conduct among various countries

demonstrates the difficulty in maintaining balance, ensuring comprehensiveness and breadth of coverage necessary in a reference source on the one hand and providing a clear indication of the range of understanding of terminology and concepts in different parts of the world on the other. With regard to the discussion of professional codes of conduct, Bob Usherwood addresses one such distinction. "There are also differences between the British and U.S. positions on the promotion of material the purpose of which is to encourage discrimination on grounds of race, colour, creed, gender or sexual orientation. These differences reflect the tension in trying to accommodate two ethical concerns: intellectual freedom and social responsibility." It is clear that there is difficulty for an encyclopedia entry for one term to provide the depth of analysis needed to indicate the societal and cultural distinctions associated with the use and understanding of related terminology, therefore supporting the inclusion of recommended sources for further reading.

There also are some concerns that relate to the actual content covered or to the indexing. For example, the legislative acts presented represent mainly British library legislation. A few of the more important acts in the United States, such as CIPA and the USA Patriot Act, do not appear to have been addressed in the entries on censorship, children, and public libraries (nor are they indexed). Certainly, one of the challenges associated with the development of content for a reference source of this type is the need for broad coverage that is not time specific and is still authoritative even after legislative and judicial decisions are made and organizational interpretations come into play.

Although the topics of women in librarianship and gay and lesbian librarians are addressed, racial and ethnic minority librarians are not indexed or addressed similarly. Nor is the issue of diversity in librarianship mentioned in the entries for management and administration, collection development, and services

to various user populations. The issue of diversity is addressed in entries such as Louise Robbins's "North American Libraries and Librarianship"; however, it is not indexed.

The second edition of the *International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science* is a substantive and comprehensive addition to the reference literature in library and information science. It is an important resource for the practitioner and, based on the coverage of issues in related fields, for practitioners and those conducting basic research in similar areas.—Mark Winston, Rutgers University.

***Libraries in Open Societies: Proceedings of the Fifth International Slavic Librarians' Conference.*** Ed. Harold M. Leich. Binghamton, N.Y.: Haworth, 2002. 264p. alk. paper, \$39.95 (ISBN 078901968X). LC 2002-5936.

This volume of twenty-two papers from the Fifth International Slavic Librarians' Conference, held in Tallinn, Estonia, in July 2000, provides an overview of a field that has changed dramatically in the past three decades, especially since the fall of the Soviet Union. Meticulously edited by Harold M. Leich, Russian Area Specialist in the European Division of the Library of Congress, these essays address a multitude of topics in Slavic and East European librarianship, ranging from traditional ones such as collection development to the opportunities afforded by new technologies. The essays likewise reflect the ongoing political and economic transformations of the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. As Marianna Tax Choldin points out in the opening essay of the volume, the international networking of Slavic librarians today is a far cry from the early efforts of a handful of librarians to attain an international presence in 1974 as part of the newly formed International Committee for Soviet and East European Studies.

The contributors to this book, published simultaneously as a special issue of *Slavic & East European Information Resources* (vol. 3, no. 2/3, 2002), represent librarians,