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ON-LINE BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES

Where We Are
Where We're
Going



edited by
Peter G. Watson

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On-Line Bibliographic Services--Where We Are,
Where We're Going

Proceedings of an all-day meeting at the Centennial Conference of the American Library Association Chicago, 18 July 1976, organized by the Information Retrieval Committee of the Reference and Adult Services Division.

Edited By
Peter G. Watson



Chicago
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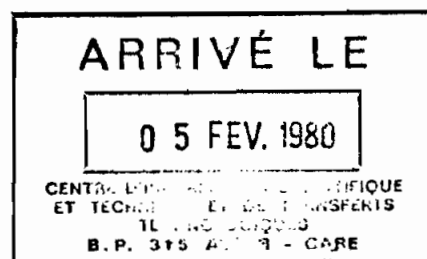


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FOREWORD

These papers constitute the edited transcript of an all-day meeting held at the Centennial Conference of the American Library Association on 19 July 1976, for one of the fastest-growing segments of the library profession--that vigorous group of library practitioners, teachers and managers working to equip libraries to utilize on-line bibliographic search services as an enhancement of existing types of library reference service.

The design of the day's events was to start with reports on three recent national surveys, in order to give the participants a picture of current operations and developments in this new field; then, for perspective, a library educator and two administrators, one from a public library, the other from an academic library, were asked to give their reactions to these surveys. This forms Part I, the "where we are" part of the title. The "where we're going" part was addressed in the afternoon by a series of shorter presentations, not overtly delivered as forecasts or predictions, but as examinations of the major areas needing attention and decision; these appear as Part II, and it is hoped that cumulatively they help to define the shape that the new service will take in most libraries, serving as a benchmark for those already involved, and a fingerpost for those in the thinking and planning stages. The concluding presentation sets the whole function in a broader context, using comparisons to adduce some of the underlying characteristics of the diffusion of innovation in libraries.

Thanks are due to Andrew Hansen, Executive Secretary of RASD, for active help with both the program and the publication of these proceedings; to the Libraries of the University of California, Los Angeles, and California State University, Chico, for bearing a portion of the clerical effort; to Jeffrey Paul for designing the cover; to the members of the RASD Information Retrieval Committee over several years, who worked on the plans for the program; and, of course, to the speakers themselves, who made the day an unqualified success.

Peter G. Watson
Chairperson, RASD Information
Retrieval Committee, 1973-1976

