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Linda C. Smith & Ruth C. Carter's Technical Services Management, 1965-1990: A Quarter Century of Change and a Look to the Future (book review)

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Technical Services Management, 1965–1990: A Quarter Century of Change and a Look to the Future. Ed. by Linda C. Smith and Ruth C. Carter. New York: Haworth, 1996. 370p. \$39.95 (ISBN 1-56024-960-9).

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this festschrift written in honor of Kathryn Luther Henderson. The book is composed of twenty essays, authored by her students and colleagues. In the introduction, the editors express the purpose of the essays, which is to “suggest directions for the future as well as document the past,” and this work does fulfill these goals, though perhaps the latter slightly better than the former.

The essays are categorized in nine parts with general titles: Trends in Technical Services, Acquisitions and Collection Development, Catalogs, Cataloging, Subject Access, Indexing, Preservation, Education and Professional Development, and Future. Each of the essays is well researched and well written. The reader can sense each author’s passionate commitment to his or her area of specialty. As with many such review works, the bibliographical references at the close of each essay are extremely rich, and the existence of the index adds to the value of this work.

There is a definite emphasis on cataloging that understandably reflects Henderson’s focus in her teaching and research. I must admit I was surprised to see only one essay on acquisitions. There were two essays on indexing, with a fair amount of overlap between the two. For the most part, the essays are broad in their approach to the particular topic, though a few are almost too specific. Examples of these narrow topics are an essay on the treatment of “institutions” during the 1949 ALA catalog code revision, on the Dewey Decimal Classification, and on post-war developments in indexing in Great Britain. While each provided inter-

esting reading, they struck me as slightly out of synch with the other essays.

The time period under review is very explicit, 1965-1990, and is adhered to closely in the majority of the essays. In an early note, the editors state that all were submitted during or before 1992, and the editors assume all responsibility for delays in publication. This delay detracts from the future-looking portions to some extent. It seems rather odd not to find any mention of a LISTSERV until the tenth essay.

The inclusion of the word *management* in the title raises certain expectations. The editors explain up front that there is no essay on technical services management and proceed to briefly discuss issues faced by the technical services manager in the past, present, and future. I cannot help but think that just such an essay at the end of this work would have tied everything up quite nicely.

This book would make an excellent addition to all academic libraries, and, I hope, will be read by more than technical services librarians and students. The amount of change experienced in just a quarter of a century is truly amazing!—*Ellen McGrath, Head of Cataloging, Charles B. Sears Law Library, State University of New York at Buffalo.*