

Systems,” for example, and it’s very frustrating to find such software, even though some is listed in the title section. There is no indication what category the software is listed under, which would allow you to find other software in the same category. Cross references or a real index would help considerably. The absence of categories like “simulation,” “bar code software,” or “disk caching” that real-world software users might be interested in makes these volumes much less valuable than they could be.

Categories were also not used consistently: expert systems development software was listed in at least three different categories. Other inconsistencies include the presence of some Apple software in the IBM section and the occasional entry for a piece of computer hardware (!) in what is supposed to be a software directory.

“Comprehensive” is a word that should never be taken too literally, especially in the frenetic world of microcomputer software. One whole category, educational software, is excluded to make room for 4,000 new packages added since the last edition; a separate Bowker *Software for Schools* directory is said to cover that category. But it **was** dismaying to find several widely-used software utilities missing, and even a major application like Microsoft Excell for the IBM PC is absent. Though *The Software Encyclopedia 1989* isn’t worthless, it does fall considerably short of its promise.

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Gold, Jordan. *Illustrated Wordperfect 5.0*. Plano, Texas: Wordware Publishing, Inc., 1989. 404 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 1-55622-063-4.

Author Gold promises “what you need to master the features of. . . Wordperfect.” The book is designed to meet the needs of beginning WordPerfect users, but intermediate and advanced users may find it a good quick reference. Seventy-two tutorial modules and thirteen appendices provide descriptions and applications accompanied by computer screen images (providing justification for the use of “illustrated” in the title).

A recommended learning sequence (pp. vi-vii) makes this volume suitable for use by the independent learner as well as students working in a classroom or other instructor-led context. The recommended learning sequence should serve the needs of most users, although users with previous word processing experience on other software may find themselves modifying the sequence to meet specific needs/applications.

The books modules are organized alphabetically by Wordperfect 5.0 functions (such as Cancel, Delete, Move or Sort) rather than the learning sequence. Some users may be bothered by this arrangement and the need to continually refer to the learning sequence recommendations to find the next lesson. Most modules are brief—running two to nine pages—but intermediate and advanced users will probably use the detailed index (pp. 399-404) to go directly to the specific function needed (such as Cancel - print job; Delete - sentence; Move - block, or Sort - defining), thus making the alphabetical organization of modules unnecessary.

Experienced users will appreciate Appendix K which contains a comprehensive WordPerfect command list. Other Appendices such as Appendix M - WordPerfect Exercises, will not be of use or interest to many.

Printed on non-glare paper, *Illustrated WordPerfect 5.0*, at approximately 9 × 10, has a perfect binding rather than the more commonly used spiral binding. It does, however, stay open when placed on a flat surface. While larger type and more generous use of white space would improve this books usability, most readers should find it a convenient and helpful tool in learning WordPerfect 5.0.

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Shuman, Bruce A. *The Library of the Future: Alternative Scenarios for the Znformation Professional*. Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1989. 200 pp. \$23.50. ISBN 0-87287-656-X.

*The Library of the Future*, says its author, Bruce A. Shuman, could easily have been a book of “several thousand pages, or perhaps a multivolume work, to do justice to the twofold task of providing an adequate discussion of futuring methodology and a discussion of the future of the library in all of its aspects.” To produce a book of manageable size he opted instead to write a slim volume that deals only with alternative futures in the public library setting. This is presented as a series of scenarios projected into the next twenty-five years.

Mr. Shuman is obviously someone who enjoys reading and writing about the “futures field.” He is apparently a devoted member of the World Future Society (judging by the number of references coming out of that organization’s journal, *The Futurist*, and the extent that he refers to the group itself). He sees “futuring” as

both an entertaining intellectual exercise and a valid and useful planning tool.

Most of the book consists of nine widely divergent scenarios for the future of the public library from the present to 2015. Perhaps to attract a broader readership than the usual group of people associated with library planning, library directors, budget officers, board members, and middle managers, these nine scenarios are written in short story format. He's not a bad story teller either. In the space of five or six pages each, he succinctly describes the underlying parameters of an alternative future and shows how the library and its patrons and staff fit into that world picture.

However fun and thought-provoking these mini-dramas are, the book as a whole is not quite successful. In five introductory chapters in which Mr. Shuman summarizes futuring methodology in general and justifies the use of scenarios in working through a predictive problem, too much time is spent trying to convert the reader to his side. These five chapters should probably have been edited down to one or at most two. I suspect that Mr. Shuman has frequently been in the position of arguing for the validity of futuring techniques and felt obliged to make an exhaustive and compelling case for them. Much of what he says, however, especially the second chapter on who and what are futurists, is really quite unnecessary. Rather than exhaustive, these chapters are merely exhausting.

To be fair, most of my own difficulty with the first part of *The Library of the Future* is with its style and presentation. The author quotes heavily from other futurists, most of whom are not librarians. In some chapters, over half of the text consists of irrelevant quotes or summaries of predictions that have absolutely nothing to do with the book's stated topic. Another person may find this approach charming. I found it aimless and distracting. However wonderful the author may personally find futuring, his arguments would stand out much better had he stuck to the matter at hand.

The summary chapter shares some of the aimlessness of the first five. It reads in places more like a testimonial to the leaders of the futures field than a conclusive discussion of the value of using predictions as goals in library planning.

I'm of two minds about this book. I found Mr. Shuman's scenarios to be both entertaining and thought provoking; not award-winning fiction, mind you, but well-paced and plausible writing. The first five chapters, however, need a major rewrite. Properly done, they could be a nice essay arguing for and describing the use of futuring methodologies in both short and long range library planning. As is, though, many readers may never get through them. A professional planner might very well sneer at the whole thing. So be warned: I can't completely pan this book

but neither can I unreservedly recommend it as a library purchase.

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*Indexing, the State of Our Knowledge and the State of Our Ignorance; proceedings of the 20th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Indexers, New York City, May 13, 1988*, edited by Bella Hass Weinberg. Medford, N.J., Learned Information, Inc., 1989.

What are indexes? Who uses them? and How should they be made? These were some of the questions discussed at the twentieth annual meeting of the American Society of Indexers. But the underlying issue, discussed in nearly every paper, was the role of computers (especially personal computers) in the indexing process. What are the characteristics of software products? Under what circumstances should each be used? What parts of indexing can be automated? The editor of the proceedings, Bella Hass Weinberg, deserves a special commendation since every paper is well written and informative; and there is very little overlap in content between any two of the contributions.

H. H. Wellisch introduced the session with a survey of the literature. One of his more interesting observations (which was not pursued within the context of this meeting) was the distinction in approach of English language research and the research of persons whose language is more highly inflected (e.g., the German or Russian languages). The former research emphasizes techniques for matching terms while the latter emphasizes techniques that take into account the linguistic structure of the indexed text. In suggesting directions for future research, Wellisch set the tone for subsequent papers by calling for greater understanding of the distinction between the ability of a machine to manipulate symbols and the ability of a human being to understand the meaning of symbols.

In a discussion of "Book Indexing Principles and Standards," Dorothy Thomas called for the establishment of a Committee on Ethics and Standards. This committee would be charged both with defining standards that would support individual indexers in their relationships with publishers and with the preparation of a glossary of technical terminology. Such a glossary would enable indexers to communicate more readily. In the concluding session, B. Lipetz returned to the role of publishers and observed that it is in their inter-