Book Reviews

The Whole Internet: User's Guide and Catalog, by Ed Krol. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly and Associates, 1992. 376p. $24.95 (paper) ISBN 1-56592-025-2. Permanent paper.

Crossing the Internet Threshold: An Instructional Handbook, by Roy Tennant, John Ober, and Anne G. Lipow. Berkeley, CA: Library Solutions Press, 1992. 134p. $45 (paper) ISBN 1-882208-01-3.

Just a few years ago, learning to use the Internet was simply a matter of finding a knowledgeable and patient colleague who would be willing to sit down and teach you how to e-mail, telnet, and FTP. There were a number of guides available online, but that meant you already had to know how to locate them and download them (not to mention uncompress them). Two very popular works with early roots on the net are Krol's *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Internet* and Brendan Kehoe's *Zen and the Art of the Internet*. Novice Internet users, however, often want a *printed* guide to consult—and 1992 saw the publication of three such books: Kehoe's *Zen* appeared in print for the first time (Prentice Hall, $22); Tracey LaQuey and Jeanne Ryder authored *The Internet Companion: A Beginner's Guide to Global Networking* (Addison-Wesley, $10.95); and Ed Krol expanded on his *Hitchhiker's Guide* to produce *The Whole Internet*.

Krol's work is the most detailed of the three. In a casual and often witty writing style, Krol describes what the network is, how it works, and its politics. The structure of the book allows readers to pick and choose those sections that are most relevant to their needs. For instance, because the book is rather heavy on UNIX examples, some beginning users may choose to skip those sections, and not be any worse off for it. The best feature of the book, from a librarian's standpoint, is the 53-page selection of Internet resources arranged by subject. Any library that serves an Internet institution should have at least one copy of this book. It is highly recommended for neophyte Internet users and those who are already a part of the Internet culture. You can save a lot of time by lending it to the next person who comes into your office that wants to learn about the Internet!

Tennant, Ober, and Lipow created *Crossing the Internet Threshold* from the workshops they held to train novice Internet users. This well-formated handbook will be a useful addition to the precious-few aids for those who train others to use this vast resource. The authors discuss the basic Internet tools, introduce networking, e-mail, and listservs, offer some fact sheets on well-known and often-used resources, and provide a glossary for beginners. One particularly useful section is "Trainer's Aids," which includes discussion questions, overheads, evaluation forms, and sample documents. An outline of the authors' day-long workshop is also provided, which could be customized for use at a variety of institutions. Though I disagree with several aspects of their suggested workshop format, I think the book is a fine start for anyone considering offering Internet training.

Because the Internet is such a dynamic resource, there will never be a print source that is truly up-to-date. Resources are added and dropped daily, while addresses and log-ins can change overnight. New software

developments become standard usage on the net in a few days. (A recent example is the gopher file search software called Veronica, which isn't mentioned in any of these books.) This should be kept in mind when reading any printed (or even online) Internet source.—*Susanna L. Davidsen, Reference and Information Technology Librarian, University of Michigan.*

Advances in Online Public Access Catalogs, Volume 1, edited by Marsha Ra. Westport, CT: Meckler, 1992. 190p. $55 ISBN 0-88736-775-5. ISSN 1063-2255. Permanent paper.

This volume, the first in a new annual series, is either eclectic or unfocused, depending upon your point of view. All but 2 of the 11 articles deal with specific libraries or projects, though many authors give the broader implications of local developments or cite related research. Further, the volume has a technical bent that will make it most appropriate for those with previous knowledge of bibliographic standards and computer-based information technology.

The first of three sections, on user interfaces, includes discussions of graphical interfaces (by Hulser), ILLINET Online Plus (by Mischo and Cole), and user success rates in online searching at Adelphi University (by Ballard and Smith). Of particular note is Troutman's paper on a subsystem developed within the ILLINET OPAC to meet the specialized needs of music users (although no references follow the article for the footnotes within the text).

The second section, "Enhancing the Traditional Catalog Record," includes a piece by Wittenbach (the best overview article of the volume) that considers possibilities for enhancing records and for improving access to existing records through improved system features. Beatty's description of expanding records with table of contents or index terms at the Australian Defence Force Academy, and the MARBI Discussion Paper on MARC format changes for table of contents complete this section.

Troll begins part three, "Redefining the Scope of the OPAC and Moving Beyond the Library Walls," by examining the common user expectation that the interface on the OPAC should be the same as the one on their favorite platform—whether it's DOS, Windows, Macintosh, or UNIX. Troll describes the Mercury Project at Carnegie Mellon University, which is using the client-server model to develop multiple interfaces. Jamieson's article on remote searching for Oriental-language materials, might be descriptively titled "Around the World on the Internet in Search of Specialized Materials." The volume concludes with a description of OPAC development in Yugoslavia (by Juznic and Paar) and the PACLink Project at SUNY for seamlessly interconnecting Z39.50 compliant catalogs with NOTIS software (by Perry).

Is this volume a comprehensive overview of OPAC advances over the past year? No. Are the articles worth reading? In general, yes. There are several excellent contributions that will be of particular interest to a technically oriented audience. I would recommend, however, that academic libraries without comprehensive library science collections wait for the second volume before placing a subscription.—*Robert P. Holley, Associate Dean of Libraries, Wayne State University, Detroit.*

Subject Access to Films and Videos, by Sheila S. Intner and William E. Studwell, with the assistance of Simone E. Blake and David P. Miller. Lake Crystal, MN: Soldier Creek Press, 1992. 133p. $25 (paper) ISBN 0-936996-60-9. LC 91-32024.

This publication, a mixture of the pedantic, the irrelevant and the obvious, is a four-part work: a general essay on subject access to films and videos; an essay on compatibility between access systems of subject terminology; an essay on developing video collections; and the major effort, a list of Library of Congress Subject Headings with Selected Moving Image Materials Headings. Several bibliographies and short studies complete the volume.

In the first chapter, Intner lays out some basic concepts and conflicts built into creating subject access to films and videos, the major one being topic versus form definition, and the ways certain professional user groups have dealt with them, e.g., by inventing the *Art and Architecture Thesaurus.*

By far the most interesting chapter is David Miller's "Levels of Compatibility Between *Moving Image Materials: Genre Terms* and *Library of Congress Subject Headings* in a General Library Catalog," a logical extension of Intner's essay. Miller describes in some detail the ways incompatible terms manifest themselves, online and off, and suggests ways most of them can be reconciled. His examples are all from the LCSH and Moving Image Materials lists (MIM was a well-informed 1988 project of the American Film Institute). He offers several lists that compare terms he describes as "pseudo-synonyms," "character string conflicts," "pseudo-see references," etc.

Intner's general essay on video collection building has little relation to anything in this book and may be summarized by the adage "Know your users and intelligently buy what they want," to which I would add, "And learn how to tactfully ignore what they want as well." The concluding 68-page list of subject headings will be useful mainly to catalogers, and perhaps to those who still believe such things apply to AV collections.

It is important to note that none of the authors is an AV or Film/Video librarian, though Intner and Miller hint now and then that *users* must really determine some access terms.

Managers of AV collections may safely ignore this work without worrying much about impairing their effectiveness. Catalogers may find it pleasantly optional. The vastly growing number of resources in video and image-based media seems to far outmaneuver efforts to standardize access to them. Librarians, with their local means of classifying, labeling, shelving, listing, and publicizing, will remain for some time the best guides to their own collections.—*Paul B. Wiener, Film/Video Librarian, SUNY at Stony Brook.*