



BOOK REVIEW

E. B. & R. L. Jackson (Editors)
Industrial Information Systems: A Manual for Higher Managements and Their
Information Officer/Librarian Associates
Academic Press for Dowden, Hutchison & Ross, 1978
Stroudsburg, PA

This book is written primarily as a guide to industrial higher management and to Information Officers in large industrial corporations. It is also intended to be used as a graduate text in courses in Information Systems/Services and in industrial special librarianship. It largely succeeds in these objectives but may not be of much utility to persons working in a library or below the corporate level or in a smaller corporation.

It is based on the extended experience of the two Editors with General Motors and IBM Corporations and their familiarity through Directorship of Engineering Index with the needs of corporate library and information users. Many consulting experiences with large industrial corporations provide Case Study material on practices and on how change was implemented. The authors also do not hesitate to recommend - with reasons - centralization or decentralization for the functions provided by information centers in a geographically dispersed enterprise.

One chapter provides a complete description of the Bell Laboratories Library Network, of the philosophy and the methods used to actively provide information as needed to potential users. Other chapters cover IIS Functions, IIS Administration, IIS Personnel, IIS Users, IIS Budgeting, etc. The Editors also provide in a 66-page Appendix and on a microfiche a number of tables which analyze the library policies of the Fortune 500 Corporations.

The book's title is a good description of its contents. It skips all micro-level technical "library" type material but does provide the guidelines with which a large corporation can assess its needs, survey its existing services, and decide how they should be managed. It provides reassuring comparative data on a number of other corporations and remains practical throughout. An information "specialist" might learn from it the processes through which information resources are today made available in large corporations across the U.S.A. It is definitely recommended to information specialists at the higher levels in large industrial corporations.

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