• The Audubon Society's Video Guide to the Birds of North America, introduced by Roger Tory Peterson and directed by Michael Godfrey, is a series of two 4-hour videocassettes that presents in video format everything that the Peterson printed field guide contains. The armchair ornithologist can watch, for every species that breeds in North America, still and/or motion picture footage, authentic bird calls, verbal descriptions by the narrator, and animated range maps showing migration routes. The first tape in the series is available this month and retails for $74.95 in VHS or Beta. For more information, contact MasterVision, 969 Park Ave., New York, NY 10022.

• Binding Operations in ARL Libraries, SPEC Kit #114 (105 pages, May 1985), discusses the uses of in-house and commercial binding, organization and staffing issues, binding standards and guidelines, and automation. The kit contains 12 documents dealing with organization and administration, 7 examples of contracts and specifications, 3 descriptions of automated systems, 8 descriptions of binding treatments, and a list of selected readings. SPEC kits are available by subscription from SPEC, Office of Management Studies, ARL, 1527 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Individual kits are available for $20 each, prepayment required.

• Computer-Readable Databases: A Directory and Data Sourcebook, edited by Martha E. Williams (2 vols., May 1985), provides comprehensive coverage of internationally available word-oriented and numeric databases. First published in 1976, this directory was issued previously by the American Society for Information Science and Knowledge Industry Publications. Access to information on the 2,800 databases described is provided by subject, producer, online vendor, and name indexes (including nicknames and names of databases subsumed into other bases). One volume covers databases in science, technology, and medicine; the other includes databases in business, law, social sciences, and humanities. Copies may be ordered for $157.50 (or $87.50 each) from ALA Publishing Services, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. ISBN 0-8389-0415-7.

• The Congressional Liaison System is an online database of voting records and other lobbying information useful for understanding and anticipating events in Congress. It consists of 35 programs and 50 databases that operate together as one program for IBM-compatible equipment. Biographies of members of Congress and their staff, thousands of important bills and votes, political action committee contributions, campaign information, ratings, issue positions, and information on each Congressional district, from local political contacts to employment statistics and key contacts at local newspapers and TV stations, are contained in the system. The vendor is offering a slightly scaled-down version to libraries for $2,000, with monthly updates on floppy diskettes. For more information, contact Jeffrey C. Cragler, Lobbyist Systems Corporation, 900 17th Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036.

• In Establishing and Maintaining a Library: Two Essays on the University of Sydney Library, by Neil A. Radford and John Fletcher (60 pages, 1984), has been published by the University of Sydney, Australia, to mark the centenary of the death of Thomas Fisher, the library's principal benefactor. In his essay, "Thomas Fisher and the Fisher Bequest," Radford presents a fascinating study of the convict's son and shoemaker whose name lives on in the library he endowed. Fletcher's essay, "Per Ardua ad Libros," documents the lively history of Australia's second-oldest friends group and its contribution to the library's development. Copies are Aus$12.50 (prepaid) from the University Librarian, Fisher Library, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia. ISBN 0-949269-33-6.

• A Filing and Record Keeping Manual (50 pages, 1985) has been prepared by the staff of the University of Connecticut Historical Manuscripts and Archives Division as a by-product of a two-year survey of university records. The manual offers guidelines for getting paper files under control. Copies may be ordered for $3 postage and handling, from Diane Castillo, Homer Babbidge Library, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06268.

• Foreign Student Flows, edited by Elinor G. Barber (129 pages, May 1985), is the report of a conference held at the Spring Hill Center, Wayzata, Minnesota, April 13-15, 1984, designed to deepen understanding of foreign-student issues among college and university administrators. The Institute of International Education organized the
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conference, which brought university administrators and education specialists together with social scientists to examine issues as they may affect institutional policy. In addition to summaries of conference discussions, the monograph contains two analyses by social scientists of worldwide and U.S. foreign student flows. Single copies are available free of charge from the Communications Division of IIE, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

* A Guide to Hartford Historical Resources provides information on primary and secondary resources in 43 libraries, colleges and universities, historical societies, museums, hospitals and medical societies, corporations and religious organizations in Hartford, East Hartford, and West Hartford, Connecticut. The guide was produced by the Committee on Hartford History Resources, a group of librarians, archivists, and other concerned individuals. Copies may be obtained by sending a check for $1 postage and handling (made out to the Capitol Region Library Council) to CRLC, 599 Matianuck Ave., Windsor, CT 06095.

* James Merrill, Poet (32 pages, 1985), is a catalog of the current exhibit on Merrill at the Washington University Libraries, St. Louis. The exhibit was occasioned by Merrill’s residence at Washington University as Visiting Hurst Professor in the Department of English in April. Seventy-eight Merrill publications are profiled. Copies are available for $4 (checks payable to the Libraries), from Washington University Libraries, Special Collections, Campus Box 1061, St. Louis, MO 63130.

* Kodak has come out with two new pocket guides for traveling photographers: the Kodak Pocket Guide to Travel Photography and the Kodak Pocket Guide to Nature Photography. Both books are well-illustrated with tips on taking pictures under special travel conditions or in the wild. Copies are $5.95 each from the Eastman Kodak Company, 343 State St., Rochester, NY 14650. ISBN 0-671-50609-2 (travel), 50670-6 (nature).

* The Maine Union List of Serials (1985 microfiche ed.) has been published by the Fogler Library, University of Maine at Orono. This edition includes 16,400 titles in 39,900 holdings statements for 78 academic, public, and special libraries in Maine. Copies are available for $15 (prepaid) from the Fogler Library, University of Maine at Orono, Orono, ME 04469. Specify 24x or 42x reduction.


* The WLN Resource Directory is a microfiche union catalog containing bibliographic data describing all items held by WLN participants. Over 1.5 million unique titles representing over 7.5 million holdings are found in the 1985 edition and can be accessed by author, title, and subject. Cost for buyers outside the WLN service area is $350. Contact the WLN Library Services Section, Washington State Library, Olympia, WA 98504-0111.

Now there's more time to get your job done

An extra second was added to the official U.S. time scale at the end of June 1985, making the last minute of the last hour of the last day 61 seconds instead of 60. The change was made to keep atomic clock time closely matched to solar time, which is less accurate. Actually, 12 other “leap seconds” have been inserted since 1972. — National Bureau of Standards Update, May 20, 1985.