

German libraries and denying kidnapped German rocket scientists access to current research literature.

Three articles are included in the fifth section, "Theoretical Topics." Stefano Mizzaro analyzes the history of the "relevance" concept in information retrieval through an "exhaustive review" of 160 papers. The final section, entitled "Literature" is comprised of five contributions. One wonders how many readers would be interested in Felix Sagredo Fernandez and Antonia Garcia Moreno's annotated bibliography of approximately 20 Spanish-language items dealing with the history of information science in Spain? Robert V. Williams, Laird Whitmire, and Colleen Bradley claim that their bibliography of items on the history of information science published between 1900 and 1997 is comprehensive, although such claims for a bibliography must always be viewed with skepticism. The book concludes with a name and subject index, compiled by Trudi Bellardo Hahn, for 23 of the 25 papers.

Despite the \$39.50 list price for a paperback, the book has the appearance of a "low-budget" production. The paper is obviously of inexpensive quality. Although the six major sections discussed above are outlined in the introduction and indicated in the table of contents, the text itself offers 25 continuous papers without organizing them into separate sections. Moreover, with one exception, the papers were reprinted as originally published "to minimize costs" (p. 2). Thus, one finds Rayward's incongruous reference to "this issue of *Information Processing & Management*" (p. 13). The introduction indicates that, instead of revising their works, authors were invited to submit supplementary statements that are appended to their contribution. Eight articles have such statements following them. While some of these statements are termed "appendix" or "addendum," others are simply unlabeled and could confuse a casual reader flipping through the volume.

Several positive comments can be made about the book. The authors represent eight different countries and include illustrious names from the discipline. Most of the major areas of information science are addressed (e.g., bibliometrics, information retrieval, documentation, and technology). Because the essence and future direction of a discipline can be better understood by examination of its historical roots, the recent increased interest in the history of information science—to which this volume testifies—is a welcome trend.

This book's intellectual content makes an important scholarly contribution, but unfortunately that content has been published elsewhere. It seems doubtful that libraries or individuals that already own the *Information Processing & Management* and the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science* issues, where most of these papers appeared originally would need to purchase this item.

Hearne, Betsy, et al. (Eds.). *Story: From Fireplace to Cyberspace, Connecting Children and Narrative. Proceedings from the 39th Allerton Park Institute.* Champaign, IL: University of Illinois, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 1998. 143 pp. \$21.95 (paperback). ISBN 0-87845-105-6.

Reviewed by **Sharon McQueen**, Doctoral Student, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park Street, Madison, WI 53706 <smq@csd.uwm.edu>.

The Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has, for nearly 40 years, organized an annual conference, which, as its Web page explains, explores “areas of emerging or continuing interest to practicing librarians.” Each year the conference features a theme, which provides the foundation for the event. The 39th Allerton Park Institute explores the intricate Web that connects children with story (narrative) and storytelling. The proceedings of these conferences are not always published. This time we are in luck.

The editors of the 39th Allerton Park Institute proceedings, Betsy Hearne and Christine Jenkins of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, and Janice Del Negro and Deborah Stevenson of the Center for Children’s Books, a GSLIS affiliate, also presented aspects of the program. Already respected for their contributions to the field of children’s librarianship, the four have assembled a valuable resource for children’s librarians (both school and public), those involved in children’s education (both formal and otherwise), instructors of storytelling (for both children and adults), and scholars of the storytelling genre.

It is often a challenge when dealing with a wide range of approaches and ideas to find tidy categories within which to present them. The papers included in this publication do not always fit neatly into the categories chosen. Divided into four sections, the publication invites the reader to explore story as practice, theory, literature, and institutional culture. Each section includes two or three papers presented at the institute, which have been revised for publication (p. 1). Also included are summaries of various workshops and storytelling concerts associated with the specific sections. However, I was puzzled, for example, by the inclusion of the “Summary of Workshops” in “Section One: Story as Practice,” and “Summary of Storytelling Concerts” in “Section Two: Story as Theory.” I would have reversed the two.

It is also a challenge to convey live performances and interactive experiences in written form. As one might expect, the descriptions of the workshops and storytelling fall short. Reading them, without having witnessed the live event, is rather like walking into a play after the intermission to catch the second act. It may be enjoyable, but you know you have missed out. I have heard Janice Del Negro speak. I have also heard her tell the story of her recently published picture book, *Lucy Dove*. Not *read* it—*tell* it. Both experiences were impressive. Both were inspirational. Reading about Del Negro’s public appearance only served to make me regret having missed the conference. As Del Negro herself writes, “The printed page can only hint at the live experience that made the conclusion of each day seem like a new beginning” (p. 59). Yet, as one of the

goals of *Story: From Fireplace to Cyberspace, Connecting Children and Narrative* is to inspire the reader to attend more storytelling events, frustrations felt along these lines may eventually be converted to positive action.

Of the 10 papers that appear in the collection, Del Negro's has the most "stage presence." "For Story's Sake: Reading as its Own Reward" is a high-impact work. Del Negro has a talent for combining practicality with inspiration. How *does* she do it? She spurs us on to attempt the ideal while assuring us that she knows it's impossible. She wants us to try anyway (p. 102).

For those in the school library setting, or for anyone interested in storytelling for that matter, Anne Shimojima's "Storytelling in the School Library Media Center" is of immense value. Shimojima has a great deal to say and she says it well:

Storytelling provides food for fantasy, which encourages creativity, originality, and flexibility. It gives us material for daydreaming, for working out our own anxieties, for imagining and wondering. The information age is here, but we need more than information. We need wisdom. Stories give us the material to develop that wisdom. (p. 6)

There are five appendices included in this publication. The one by Shimojima is worth the cost of the book alone (p. 108). She has divided her appendix into no fewer than 16 resource sections, with an annotated list of books about stories and storytelling itself being pages long. In the section on Internet resources, not only is a storytelling listserv (STORYTELL) given, but subscription instructions are included as well. She even provides an entire second grade folk-tale unit-plan.

A few of the papers do not hold their own in the collection. In his "The Storytelling Festival as Ritualization of the Storytelling Revival Mythos," Joseph Daniel Sobol shares the spiritual and cathartic experiences that he enjoyed while in attendance at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. Unfortunately, the hyperbolic tone of his language detracts from his message. Learning that a drive to the festival provides a "womb-like enclosure" from which the participant may be born into the festival, that the drive itself fulfills the function of a vigil, and that the sleep deprivation of the drive may "induce altered states" that can enhance and heighten the festival experience, may scream "cult" to some (p. 28). Christian references, including invitations to repent and a likening of one popular storyteller to Christ, follow hard upon (p. 33).

No matter the uneven quality of the papers, it is clear that every presenter had an abiding enthusiasm for storytelling and the impact of story on the development of children as readers and consumers of what they read.

Jones, Plummer Alston, Jr. *Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999. 236 pp. \$59.95 (paperback). ISBN 0-313-30769-5.