First published in 1988 by the now-defunct School of Information Sciences at Brigham Young University, this slim volume remains the only biography of the library educator and pioneer in information science, Jesse Hauk Shera. With the additions of a foreword by Kathryn La Barre, Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and an index by Victoria Jacobs, the text remains the same. Professor La Barre’s first sentence asks, “Why reissue this slender volume?”

Library Juice Press (http://libraryjuicepress.com/), an imprint of Litwin Books, specializes in theoretical and practical issues in librarianship from a critical perspective—“books for librarians with a critical edge.” Twenty-five years after first publication, with the original publisher defunct, and the author dead, one wonders who believed this to have a critical edge worth reprinting.

Forty-three percent of the original book consisted of a chronological bibliography of Shera’s writings. In this new version possibly created by optical character recognition, the bibliography contains missing italics; italics where there should not be any; spacing issues between punctuation, page numbers, and within words—apparently for right justification; misrecognition of letters and numbers; incorrect attribution of what book a chapter was published in; and missing words, volumes, and issue numbers. There is no excuse for the poor proofreading and the introduction of errors that were not in the original printing. The body of the five-chapter text also contains typographical errors not in the original. The physical reproduction problems make the bibliography in particular difficult to read and typos render it an unreliable source for Shera’s writings.

Substantively, Wright lays out Jesse Shera’s life, work, and philosophy of information science as it relates to librarianship in five chapters. The first two chapters introduce the reader to Shera, his early professional development, how he came to become a librarian, and his social science background which led to his investigations into the use of computers in librarianship and information science. Wright devotes the third chapter to Shera’s appointment at [Case] Western Reserve University and the establishment of the Center for Documentation and Communication Research. In chapter four, Wright details the infighting between Shera and the Center’s directors whom he had recruited and it is this focus that overshadows the biographical sketch. The reader learns little to nothing about Shera as dean of the library school, his philosophy of library education, or the impact he had on students (other than Wright) or the profession. Wright and reviewers of the first printing say he was a brilliant, intellectual giant in the field but Wright does not reveal much of that side of Shera.

The value of this new version lies in the introduction refuting early reviews and placing Shera at the forefront of current discussions about iSchools, the chronological bibliography of Shera’s works to see how his thinking developed over time and how he integrated his subject expertise into librarianship, the index, and the first two chapters that introduce the reader to Jesse Shera. H. Curtis Wright intended to write a comprehensive biography of his mentor and friend but died before fulfilling his plan. Complementing Shera’s papers at Case Western, Wright’s papers containing his research on Shera will become available for research in 2018 at Brigham Young University. Until a future scholar produces a full-length biography using newly-available archival resources, library historians will have to be content with this abbreviated biography.

To answer my initial questions, why reissue and does this have a critical edge worth republishing, I can only give a mixed response. Jesse Shera was on the critical edge twenty-five years ago. His own writings may give insight into his prescient belief in the integration of computers as tools for librarians but this brief biography only skims the surface of a deeply thoughtful man. For those libraries that already own the 1988 publication, there is no need to purchase this one with all of the flaws introduced in the bibliography. Libraries wishing to build their history of librarianship collections and lacking the original might consider adding this monograph until someone publishes a more definitive biography.

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Records & information management

By Patricia C. Franks, Chicago: Neal-Shuman, 2013, (xiv, 410 pp. $80.00 softcover ISBN 9781555709105)

As the library, archives, and records management professions move toward more emphasis on electronic records, the professional literature has begun to incorporate the digital world not only in theory but in practical applications. Records & information management offers a global view of records management in the digital era. Associate Professor Patricia Franks, School of Library and Information Science at San José University in California, teaches courses in records management, information organizations and management, and archival studies which places her in an authoritative position to extend our knowledge of records and information management.

The monograph seeks to differ from “traditional records management works by placing equal emphasis on business operations out of which records arise, and ways in which the records profession can contribute to the core mission of the enterprise beyond