

addition to the values of research in evaluation. Perhaps this is a task for a different text.

Henderson and Bialeschki provide excellent coverage of descriptive statistics as used in organizing and presenting data. In addition, an introduction to inferential statistics is also provided. While the treatment of inferential statistics was accurate, it was clearly secondary to the primary use of this text and requires some previous understanding of statistics to be completely useful. Inferential statistics are not commonly used by practitioners and this section might serve to confuse people new to evaluation and research.

There is a clear need for a text which addresses research and evaluation in a simple, non-threatening fashion and the authors have provided such a book. The short chapters and the manner in which material is presented (succinct yet comprehensive) could very well serve to increase the number of professionals involved in the applied process of research and evaluation. The validation and explanation of multiple approaches (qualitative/quantitative) to evaluation provides enough introductory information to allow one to feel some level of comfort in beginning either type of evaluation. The authors have put together a fine resource for both students and practitioners in the field of leisure services.

DEBRA J. JORDAN, Re.D. University of Northern Iowa

Douglas M. Knudson, Ted T. Cable & Larry Beck. (1995). *Interpretation of Cultural and Natural Resources*. State College, PA: Venture Publishing, Inc. ISBN 0-910251-703 \$35.95 hardcover, 509 pages.

Occasionally a book, designed as a text, provides such a wealth of information that it crosses boundaries to become an invaluable resource outside of the academic community. *Interpretation of cultural and natural resources* is such a book. In his foreword, former Director of the National Park Service, James Ridenour focused on the potential audience as students, practicing interpreters and administrators. He concluded rightly, "Reading this book is a wise investment of time."

The authors, Douglas Knudson, Ted Cable and Larry Beck assert that "this book concerns the principles, philosophies, and practices that are the essence of the rapidly growing profession of interpretation." Relatively few choices of appropriate and contemporary texts for preparation in interpretive services have been available. *Interpretation of cultural and natural resources* fills the gap left by the dated work of Grant Sharpe, *Interpreting the environment*, and exceeds the practical focus of the *Interpreter's handbook series* (University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point). Knudson et al. have built upon the foundation of John Muir, Enos Mills, Freeman Tilden, and Barry Lopez, and connected to the work of Van Matre, Dustin, McAvoy, Kohlberg, Maslow, Ford, Ham and many more.

The authors, each currently holding academic rank in state universities, have prior personal experience as interpreters. This experience in direct contact with the public is apparent in the personal style employed in writing and describing processes and principles in interpretation. The academic interests of the authors are shown in the grounding of interpretive principles in learning theory, motivation and behavior, and evaluation. Their experience as managers is shown in development of concepts in planning, business principles, and financial concerns.

The book is divided into four major sections and further defined within twenty chapters. Each section is introduced with a statement of purpose that accurately describes the upcoming chapters. Each chapter is sub-divided into sections, organized under bold-faced headings which define the content of that sub-section. The chapters conclude with a summary and citation of literature that serve as an excellent resource for those wanting further information beyond the text.

The text is complemented by photographs (most of which are attributed to the authors) that provide enrichment by example. Figures, tables and "boxes" further enrich the text, providing connection for the reader to something in his or her experience. The figures and tables tend to be exemplars for theories, applications, data, and argumentation. An unusual touch is provided by the "boxes" which offer personal connections for issues raised in the text. These boxes may include short case studies, tips on techniques for specific settings, or personal anecdotes from the authors connecting concept to practice. These boxes provide the revelation and provocation essential to good interpretation, especially in a book about interpretation.

The four major sections of the book (Interpretation, Why Interpret?, How to Interpret, and How to Manage Interpretation) define the scope and intent of the book. The task of encompassing the range of issues included in these section titles produced a hefty textbook of five hundred pages. The authors, however, have blended literature, theory, application, practice and professionalism into a cohesive text.

Little is truly "new" in *Interpretation of natural and cultural resources*, but that statement should not be taken as a negative comment on the value of the book. The authors have drawn from literature, research, and practice to present current thinking on interpretive programming. They have taken the best in theories of learning, development, marketing, management, and related topics and made strong and appropriate connections to leisure and interpretation.

In a field under the influence of technology, the authors have incorporated the attraction of "high-tech" interpretation with warnings about gadgetry. Holograms, hypermedia, and virtual reality receive equal treatment with self-guided trail hikes, living history and brochure development. These more traditional interpretive techniques are presented in much the same manner as that done by Grant Sharpe in his earlier editions of *Interpreting the environment*. Sharpe may have provided more detail for each of the tra-

ditional techniques than do Knudson et al. but these authors have improved the supporting scholarship in their presentation of interpretation. Sharpe's editions have the feel of a vocational-technical handbook, while these authors establish the philosophy behind each technique, the issues and concerns surrounding it, the elements required in planning, and the learning which should occur as a result of that technique. These authors achieve the presentation of a "whole" as suggested by Freeman Tilden. In addition, they provide a conceptual base for meeting the needs of persons of varying mental, emotional, physical and ethical stages of development.

A relatively small number of college and university programs offer courses in interpretive services. For those that do, this book is appropriate for courses in forestry, recreation resources, park management, applied history and environmental education. A larger number of managers of nature centers, museums, and interpretive facilities will find this book to be an essential addition to their libraries as a resource for planning interpretive programs. I predict with a high degree of certainty that *Interpretation of cultural and natural resources* will become the preferred source for information on interpretive services in recreation settings for the next decade.

LOWELL CANEDAY, Oklahoma State University