More and more students travel or carry out their studies in geography in developing countries.

Often they find that their specialized knowledge needs to be supplied with broader aspects of related sciences, in order to cover the requirements for jobs as planners or project leaders in such countries. Although the curriculum in geography which includes hydrology is well suited for the positions mentioned, there has been a need for a textbook combining and stressing the multi disciplinary aspects of the term Integrated Watershed Management. The book written by Heathcote is well suited to fill this need. The author has a very practical approach and the text is written with the user in mind. After an introduction that deals with the main issues and the importance of watershed management in a well structured way the author describes the watershed inventory as base for all good planning. The following chapters deal with the identification of area specific problems by use of the consultation process. This leads to the developing of management options. The author realises that a full inventory is not always available or feasible and gives advice how to deal with different levels of assessment. The second half of the book gives an excellent overview of financing and administrative matters together with environmental and social impact assessment. The last part of the book discuss how to chose the best management plan and how to implement it. In all the book is well suited as textbook for senior students, but also for graduate students who want to obtain qualifications for positions within this field.

Bent Hasholt

Distributed hydrological modelling - applications of the topmodel concept. K. J. Beven, ed. Chichester, Wiley, 1997. vi, 348 s., ill., 26 cm. GBP 40.

The rainfall-runoff model TOPMODEL has been distributed worldwide. As water flows downhill it is obvious that topography must by hydrologically significant. It is therefore important to utilize the increasing amount of available digital terrain data. TOPMODEL is capable of using these data to improve hydrological predictions in many cases, but not in all.

The current popularity of TOPMODEL is a result of the availability of GIS systems and Software programs that can handle digital maps. The book contains papers that are mostly derived from the first TOPMODEL workshop held at Lancaster University together with papers published in Hydrological Processes. The two first papers written by K.Beven and M.J.Kirkby, founders of the model, deals with basic concepts and critique of the model. The rest of the papers deal with e.g scaling problems or sensitivity analysis of the model or with the application of the model for e.g. predicting groundwater levels or the hydrological functioning of mediterranean mountain basins. The book is recommended to students and graduates who want to explore the posibilities of TOPMODEL before entering the process of practical use of the model.

Bent Hasholt

R. G. Baily: Ecosystem Geography. Berlin, Springer, 1996. xii, 204 s. ill., 1 kort i lomme. 24 cm. DEM 59,-.

R. G. Baily: Ecoregions - the ecosystem geography of the oceans and continents. New York, Springer, 1998. ix, 176 s., ill., 2 kort i lomme. 24 cm. GBP 26,-.

Det er efterhånden ved at blive almindelig erkendt som hovedregel, at økosystemer på et eller andet niveau vil være det naturlige grundlag for oversigt over biologiske udbredelser. Opgaven bliver derfor at definere økosystemer, evt. ordnet i hierarkiske niveauer og bestemme deres fordeling. Baileys bøger behandler principperne for økosystemers definition og geografiske afgrænsning. Det gøres ganske udmærket; løsningerne er stort set identiske med de, der kendes fra den klassiske regionalgeografi lige fra 'madpapirsmetoden' (grænseknippe-vurdering) til multivariate clustering. Samtidig diskuteres problemerne ved, at de fleste metoder giver varierede resultater alt efter, hvilken skala, der benyttes. Ved udsorteringen af de vigtigste faktorer ved en afgrænsning af de universelle økoregioner bliver forfatteren endnu mere geografisk, idet han fremhæver klima som den vigtigste kontrollerende faktor, især for plantevækst. Ligheden med de betragtninger, som gjordes af Vahl (1922) er slående, men der peges ganske vist på en sammenhæng mellem vegetationszoner og termiske forhold, men uden det på empiri byggende valg af isotermiske grænser, som Vahl foretog. Selv om det forekommer klart, at filosofien i bøgerne er svagere, må det fremhæves som glædeligt, at biogeografien i denne har fået en forstærkning med forelæggelse af nyt materiale, vel illustreret og godt beskrevet.

Sofus Christiansen