

insistent of the worst excesses of our odd-shaped high school libraries in the 1960s. But in this case the twist is even more perverse, since they have converted a square-floor-plan building into twin triangles on each floor.

To be highly commended is the British tendency in the polytechnic universities to mount their library science school quarters on the top floor of the library, which is used aggressively as a workshop-teaching facility for library science students, a bedrock-sound practice that has long been abandoned by American schools of librarianship.—*Ellsworth Mason, University of Colorado at Boulder.*

**Microforms Management in Special Libraries: A Reader.** Edited by Judy H. Fair. Microform Review Series in Library Micrographics Management, 5. Westport, Conn.: Microform Review, 1979. 272p. \$21.95. LC 78-13494. ISBN 0-913672-15-7.

This reader is a heterogeneous collection of thirty-one essays from a wide variety of periodicals and monographs published between 1966 and 1978 in the United States, Australia, and Great Britain. The authors are associated with law, music, map, business, hospital, local history, education, science, and engineering libraries. There are articles on equipment, user attitudes, and computer output microforms applications.

The essays are organized into five sections, each with a short introduction and a bibliography compiled by the editor. Collectively, these and other bibliographies in this volume could serve as basis for a historical reading list on microforms and some special applications. Some of the essays are informative and up to date; others on specialized resources, equipment, and procedures are dated. Information contained in essays on the general topics of microforms in libraries is repetitive. Although the book and all section titles contain the word *management*, it is neither a central nor unifying theme.

In the foreword, the editor states that the search for articles for inclusion in this volume revealed a scarcity of writing on the principles of microform use in special libraries, but she hopes that one or more of the pieces will provide the inspiration for more

communication on microforms. The book lives up to that hope and promise.—*Leo R. Rift, Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York.*

**The Map Librarian in the Modern World.**

Essays in Honour of Walter W. Ristow. Edited by Helen Wallis and Lothar Zögner. Presented by the IFLA Section of Geography and Map Libraries. Munich, New York: K. G. Saur, 1979. 295p. \$26. ISBN 3-598-10063-9.

This festschrift was compiled to honor Walter W. Ristow upon his retirement as chief, Geography & Map Division, Library of Congress. As with most festschriften, this is a mixed bag.

Four LC staff members give a brief history of the Library of Congress Geography & Map Division from 1897; Helen Wallis of the British Library tells of map librarianship's coming of age; Lothar Zögner of the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz discusses the training of map librarians; Roman Drazniowski, curator of the AGS collections, describes the American Geographical Society collections now at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; David Woodward of the Newberry Library describes the Herman Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography; Joan Winearls of the University of Toronto describes map collections and map librarianship in Canada; Ib Kejlbø of the Royal Danish Library describes map libraries in Denmark; Edmond Pognon of the Bibliothèque Nationale describes its map department; Anna Kozłowa of the Lenin Library describes the map collection in that institution; the late Ann-Mari Mickwitz writes of the Nordenskiöld Collection in the University of Helsinki; Antoine De Smet of the Albert I Royal Library in Brussels discusses the sixteenth-century cartophile Viglius ab Aytta; Hans van de Waal of the Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht describes the Dutch union map catalog; and Emil Meynen discusses the cataloging of thematic maps.

Walter Ristow's forty-year career as a map librarian has witnessed the rise and maturation of the map library profession, and he has helped to shape and direct this growth. In a brief preface, Daniel Boorstin, Librarian of Congress, calls Ristow a "scholar-

librarian," and in the area of published articles he is an example to follow. Ristow's involvement with the creation of the Geography and Map Libraries Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions is fittingly observed by the multi-national spread of these essays and by the fact that two of the contributions are in French and one is in German.

To state the obvious, this work belongs in map libraries and in the libraries of schools of librarianship. Beyond that, it must be regarded as rather specialized. Within its sphere of limited appeal, this is a valuable work, describing several map collections and giving a feel for the present state of an aspect of librarianship, that has yet to reach the full heights of its achievements.—*J. B. Post, Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

*O'Hara, Frederic. A Guide to Publications of the Executive Branch.* Ann Arbor, Mich.: Pierian Pr., 1979. 287p. \$29.50 cloth; \$15 paper. LC 78-66368. ISBN 0-87650-072-6 cloth; 0-87650-088-2 paper.

In contrast to its title, this reference work is a "guide" to publications of *only* the cabinet-level departments of the executive branch of the United States government. Even so, the author's efforts represent a formidable task that will be fully appreciated only by those who have tried to comprehend and to reduce to paper the parameters of the massive publishing activity of the U.S. government.

Compiled chiefly to serve as a selection tool, this work contains information concerning executive agencies and their functions that one might expect to find only in a detailed handbook or, indeed, in the *United States Government Manual*. This combination would be quite incongruous for most reference works. Traditionally, selection tools, even those for government publications, have been written along strict subject lines. Frederic O'Hara, professor of library science at Long Island University, deviates from this practice. His basis of organization is by publisher—in this case the agencies of the executive branch. This is possible since a government agency's publications reflect its relatively consistent concerns.

The basic arrangement of the work is al-

phabetical by executive branch departments. Each agency within a department is then treated in turn. The function, scope, and description of the agency are provided, often in considerable detail. This is followed by a delineation of the Superintendent of Documents classification numbers assigned to the agency, bibliographies of agency publications, and information about careers within the agency. Further categorical breakdowns of publications include: descriptions, histories, and grant programs of the agency; bibliographies generated by the agency; catalogs of audiovisual material; dictionaries and glossaries; statistical publications; histories produced by the agency; directories and addresses of regional offices; research results; regulations; and other useful series and titles.

Entries under each category are fully and wittily annotated. In addition, each entry is symbolically designated for its suggested utility in a reference collection or vertical file in college, public, school, or special libraries. Four separate indexes (agency, per-

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