

information on its subject. In addition, the final paper by Dr. E. H. E. Pietsch on the proposed Gmelin Information Center contains dramatic evidence of the growth of research and publication in the sciences. In its presentation of the total problem of bibliographic control, this article is of definite interest—and, perhaps, the most valuable one in *Punched Cards*.—*Ralph Blasingame, Jr., Columbia University, School of Library Service.*

Early State Records

A Guide to the Microfilm Collection of Early State Records. Supplement, prepared by the Library of Congress in association with the University of North Carolina. Collected, compiled and edited by William Sumner Jenkins. Washington, D.C. Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress, 1951. 161p. (Offset Reproduction, \$3.00)

In the fall of 1950 the 800-page *Guide* was issued, the monumental significance of which has been noted in reviews at home and abroad. The *Supplement* released in January, 1952, extends the scope of the earlier publication by listing 170 reels of additional microfilm materials. The *Guide* lists 1,700 reels of film concerning six subject classes: legislative records, executive records, statutory law, constitutional records, administrative records, and court records. Within each class the material is arranged by states and chronologically within the state. The *Supplement* utilizes the same arrangement in the presentation of five additional classes: (L) local records—county and city, (M) records of American-Indian Nations, (N) newspapers, (R) rudimentary states and courts, and (X) Miscellany.

The two volumes represent one of the most comprehensive and worthwhile microfilming projects ever undertaken in the United States. The volumes provide a complete list of the historical state records that have been microfilmed during the past decade by a project sponsored jointly by the Library of Congress and the University of North Carolina.

History, government, and sociology students will find their range of possible research greatly extended by each of the five new classes covered in the *Supplement*.

In the section, Local Government Records,

only seven local units are covered. However, two of these, the New Orleans Cabildo records and the Texas Nacogdoches Archives, are most rewarding and suggest the feasibility of a more comprehensive collection of such local records. The very roots of our democratic development are to be found in the deliberations of local bodies in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Nothing is more exasperating to the scholar than to find his source material scattered in a multitude of libraries over the whole country. The future student of Indian affairs will be most grateful for the section of the *Supplement* covering the Records of American-Indian Nations. The resources at the Oklahoma Historical Society and the resources of many secondary repositories are now conveniently brought together on the film.

The preservation and storage of newspapers is one of the prime problems of librarians today, yet we know that the student wishing to use official records of many early governmental bodies must rely on the newspaper for the only extant printing of those records. In the fifty-odd reels covered by the section on newspapers in the *Supplement* an attempt was made to arrange in chronological files the official gazette in each of the colonies and the first newspaper in each of the territories. Extracting the official documents in each of the papers resulted in copying about half of the pertinent newspapers.

The student interested in frontier governments will find great help in that section of the *Supplement* dealing with Rudimentary States and Courts. In this class are collected the records of those bodies which possessed at some time the rudiments of organized government. These governments were sometimes abortive, provisional, revolutionary, rival, usually extra-legal, and always transitory. On the frontier local needs gave rise to provisional courts for the administration of civil and criminal justice. The use of this great body of records will help us separate legend and fact in many instances.

In a class of Miscellany are included a great lot of irregular and non-serial official material and some non-official material written about the states. A considerable amount of this is broadside and manuscript material not quite fitting the major classifications of the microfilm project. These forms occupy an important place among source materials avail-

able for the historical investigator, and from them may be gathered many essential details of history.

In a monumental collecting project of this sort a number of problems confront the collector. Certain items are so scarce that it takes a long time to round them up for filming, even if the location is known. The hunting process itself makes items turn up too late, sometimes, to use in normal sequence. To take care of these and a number of other contingencies the compiler of the *Supplement* has included a most useful addenda section which takes care of a number of unavoidable omissions and happy discoveries since the *Guide* was published.

Many research institutions will want to add various segments of this monumental collection of basic documents on film; indeed, a number of institutions may want to purchase the whole collection as a unit. Purchase inquiries should be directed to the Photoduplication Service of the Library of Congress.

This review note would be incomplete without generous praise for the zeal, energy, and prodigious scholarship exerted by the collector, compiler, and editor, William Sumner Jenkins. He is an unquestionable authority in his field. His position as teacher and director of research in government and political science is all the stronger for his assiduous study of the basic documents. —G. F. Shepherd, Jr., Cornell University Library.

Subject Headings

Subject Headings; a Practical Guide. By David Judson Haykin. Washington, D.C., U. S. Government Printing Office, 1951. v, 140p. \$70.

Mr. Haykin deserves the thanks of catalogers and teachers of cataloging for this well written and well printed volume on a subject on which little literature is available. The statements of principles are clear, the examples well chosen. The principles themselves are generally sound, although the Library of Congress does not always follow them consistently. Mr. Haykin disarms criticism to some extent by stating that "the principles and rules of practice here presented represent, in many instances, what is desirable, rather than what has actually been achieved." This disclaimer seems too general, however, to cover the failure to discuss the variations and

inconsistencies in LC headings which unduly complicate the explanation of subject headings to the library user.

After a brief theoretical introduction the use of references to relate the various scattered headings is described. There follows a chapter on the form of the heading—simple, inverted, phrase, or compound. There is here, however, no discussion of the validity of the inverted form of heading. If the first principle of a good subject heading is usage, and if the dictionary catalog does not recognize any classification in the arrangement of headings, then the use of an inverted heading "in order that it may appear in the catalog next to other headings beginning with that noun" should be more elaborately justified. On page 24 the lack of a reference "Heretics. See Heresies and heretics" is excused on the plea that no other headings would intervene. Actually two subjects "Heresy" and "Heresy (Canon law)" as well as all titles beginning with the words Heresies and Heresy, intervene.

The fifth to seventh chapters deal with subdivisions and personal and geographic names. There is no general discussion of the type of material which takes a geographic subdivision under subject and that which takes a subject subdivision under place name, a distinction which is frequently difficult to explain. On page 39 there is a sentence discussing the advantage of the form "Goethe as theater director" over a possible "Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von—As theater director," but no reference to the fact that in Appendix G the forms "Shakespeare, William—Biography—As an actor" and "Lincoln, Abraham—As a lawyer" are listed.

A brief chapter discusses the over-extended use of duplicate entries which add their bit to the size of our catalogs. It is fully recognized that these have been used too frequently and the tendency is to replace them with a single entry. The relations of subject headings to author entries and added entries is next taken up, with the relation of the subject catalog to the shelf list, the forms of subjects for special libraries or special departmental catalogs, problems of filing, and procedures and personnel in the subject cataloging field. Appendixes containing various special lists of interest in subject heading work (omitting, however, the subdivisions used under place names) complete the work.

As a general introduction to the subject