

lections of the institutions studied. As examples of quantitative measurement, concisely reported, they provide models and lines of inquiry for further investigation. Finally, the conclusions set down, scrupulously drawn from the evidence presented, are matter for reflection by all librarians concerned with acquisitions policy and its implications.—*Harry W. Hart, Columbia University Libraries.*

International Law Classification

Classification for International Law and Relations. 2d ed., rev. and enl. By Kurt Schwerin. New York: Oceana Publications [1958].

This work is based on the classification scheme developed for the University of Virginia Law Library, originally published in 1947; it is currently used at the Northwestern University Law School Library.

The schedule is divided into three parts: treatises on international law, treatises on international relations, and official publications, reports, and documents. Private international law, included in the first edition, has now been dropped; it is suggested that it be classed with domestic law. This arrangement follows the practice of the majority of law libraries which generally separate documentary materials from commentaries and treatises. In international law, its wisdom is open to serious question since it separates items published by the League of Nations, United Nations, and other agencies from works *about* these organizations. The Library of Congress JX scheme keeps such materials together and appears superior in that respect. Furthermore, the distinction between international law and relations is often arbitrary. Books on international disputes, for example, are classed with international law; boundary disputes, however, with international relations; treaties and alliances appear in both sections.

The scheme uses a two-digit decimal nota-

tion with expansions up to five digits, without a decimal point. Letter codes for international agencies and their organs are provided whenever applicable; a general list of country symbols is appended to the schedule. Mnemonic features are few; in fact, the decimal principle appears to have been used primarily because of the flexibility it offers in interpolating new numbers and expanding the schedule as new topics arise; its other outstanding features have not been fully utilized.

A comparison with the first edition shows that the expansion has been considerable: the index about doubled in size, the number of assigned symbols (without country or agency subdivisions) has grown from over one hundred and fifty in the first edition to over two hundred and fifty in the second; more than one hundred and ten numbers have been added, ten dropped, about five changed (relocated). The revision was necessitated not only by the rapid growth of international agencies after World War II, but also by the oversimplified approach of the original edition to the arrangement of the League of Nations documents which have now been completely reorganized.

The schedule has many outstanding features: a comprehensive index, a complete list of country symbols, helpful examples of call numbers, and an extremely useful scheme for publications of the various international organizations. Its author recommends it for small libraries which might find the Library of Congress JX classification too detailed and too cumbersome to handle. One cannot help wondering about the wisdom of labeling an international law collection as "small" for, if it has research uses, it is bound to grow indefinitely and to reach the complexity of a "large" library. The 100-per cent expansion of the scheme under review, apparently indicated after ten years, strongly suggests that it would be safer, for any research library, to adopt the detailed classification of the Library of Congress which has the additional advantage of a continuous revision. To an undergraduate library, however, the Schwerin classification should provide a comfortable framework, in many ways superior to the current edition of the Dewey Decimal scheme.—*Vaclav Mostecky, Harvard Law School.*