Documents and Information Conference. Ed. by Peter Hernon. Westport, Conn.: Meckler, 1983. 153p. $35. LC 82-14334. ISBN 0-930466-59-4.

This volume is based on papers delivered at the second conference held in Arlington, Virginia on March 26 and 27, 1982. In the preface to *Collection Development and Public Access of Government Documents,* the volume based on the first conference proceedings, Peter Hernon emphasized the underlying theme of a need for research in, and innovative approaches to, documents librarianship and "more critical evaluation of underlying assumptions." This same theme is repeated by Hernon in the preface to the second conference proceedings. The theoretical base of documents librarianship has been ignored and these annual conferences are presented in the hope of stimulating future research.

The first two papers, however, follow the public access theme but are practical in nature. Bernadine Hoduski in "Political Activism for Documents Librarians" enumerates concrete steps to take in influencing publishers and policy makers and gives examples of past successes in increasing access to materials. Joseph Caponio, now director of National Technical Information Service, presents an overview of the agency, what it collects and disseminates, and long range goals of the 1980s. Of particular interest is the section on nonbook formats available, i.e., government patents, software, and data files.

Nonprint formats are covered in the next two papers. Kathleen Heim explores government-produced machine-readable statistical data as a component of the social science information system. The first section, detailing the scope of the social sciences and their information needs is long and detailed. The second section is a tighter presentation and covers Federal data file access policies and strategies for developing access. She stresses the need for librarians to facilitate access to this important part of the information system.

Charles Seavey gives an overview of government map publications with historic background and details of current map output. Bibliographic and political problems of access are highlighted.

Michael Tate presents a subject access theme with his paper on American Indian discontent with government reports. It is an interesting account of how government reports have adversely impacted the Indian. He delineates problems connected with official definitions of who is Indian and the effect this has on the census. He also reveals problems with access to Bureau of Indian Affairs files that prove frustrating to researchers.

Two papers are research reports. Peter Hernon and Charles McClure present a preliminary report of a pilot study on quality of reference in academic depositories. On the basis of unobtrusive testing in seventeen libraries, they found that correct answers were provided only 37 percent of the time. The authors argue that such a low rate of accuracy impairs access to depository collections and raises questions about the effectiveness of the depository system in meeting the public's information needs. The authors make several recommendations for further study.

John Richardson looks at the nature of research in government publications by analyzing theses and dissertations completed since 1928. He too recommends further research.

The eighth paper is on the struggle to pass a Freedom of Information Act in Canada. R. Brian Land gives an account of the many bills introduced and a comparison with the U.S. law.

Each paper has references that are consolidated in a bibliography at the end. A summary of papers is provided by Gary Purcell. The theme of access is followed to a greater or lesser degree in all the contributions, except for Richardson's.

The topics are interesting, but diverse. The work is for documents librarians who wish to keep abreast of the literature and for those seeking research topics in the field. It does not serve as a basic text on the topic as does Hernon's and McClure's latest publication, *Public Access to Government Information* (Ablex Publishing, 1984).—*Michele Strange, Northwestern University.*

The Bibliographic Control of Official Publications. Ed. by John E. Pemberton. New York: Pergamon, 1982. 172p. $25. LC 82-12358. ISBN 0-080-27419-6.

The Bibliographic Control of Official Publications, edited by John E. Pemberton, is a collection of essays dealing with a variety of systems developed to code and file government publications.

Pemberton's preface states that this book has been produced with the object of "stimulating progress towards the establishment of a comprehensive system for the bibliographic control of official publications, and identifying the principles upon which a new and definitive coding scheme could be based."

In my opinion, this book does nothing to bring about an effective and comprehensive system of bibliographic control for government publications, but it is effective in setting out the dimensions of the problem and in describing the approaches some librarians have taken to cope with them.

This is a book about coping. The problems described by the eleven librarian contributors from Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, and the United States are familiar to anyone who has administered a sizable collection of publications from more than one government jurisdiction. Government publications are voluminous and comprise an unwieldy mix of substantive monographs, periodicals, serials, pamphlets, and mimeographed documents—many of which are issued as single sheets. Users require access by provenance and by type of document (annual report, legislative bill, treaty, etc.) as well as by personal author, title, subject, and series. Standard cataloging systems don't handle government publications well, AACR2 has made the situation worse, and many libraries have policies against providing full cataloging for them. The document librarian is left to devise a scheme appropriate for his or her collection and users that is cheap, quickly and easily applied by library technicians, and sufficiently flexible and expandable to provide for perpetual changes in government organization structures, publication patterns, and areas of interest. This is a virtually impossible task. And, Pemberton is right. What is needed is the development of a comprehensive scheme that can be applied in any situation. A sound theoretical foundation is prerequisite to that, and this book does not provide it.

The librarians writing here share their problems, relate their discovery that no available scheme will work for them, and describe the system developed for their particular situation. I, in turn, have looked at the system each of them has developed and have understood both why they were developed and why each of them fails to meet my needs. Regretably, I have found nothing here to reduce my bias against locally devised systems that present problems in authority control and that keep government publications isolated from the bibliographic mainstream in either union card catalog or online format.

This book will be of some interest to library school students and to librarians struggling with the issue of bibliographic control for government publications. I am disappointed that it is so thoroughly a collection of tales of "how I do it in my library" and that it is so bereft of theory. I'm sure that many libraries have already purchased this book because it was issued as No. 11 in Pergamon's "Guide to Official Publications" series, but $25.00 is a very hefty price for a slim volume of only 172 pages.—*Carol Turner, Stanford University.*

Broadus, Robert N. *Selecting Materials for Libraries.* New York: Wilson, 1981. 2d ed. 479p. $18. LC 81-650. ISBN 0-8242-0659-2.

This work, which first appeared in 1973, has now been published in a second edition, showing considerable rewording of the text, but without expanding on the scope or depth of coverage. It remains a basic text for introductory courses in library science, rather than a thorough working manual for the practicing librarian, who would want more substantial details. The focus remains on the small to medium-sized general library.

The first one hundred thirty pages give an overview of the principles and basic means and aspects of selection in a concise manner which serves well as an introduction to: the role and nature of selection in different types of libraries; the fundamental principles of selection; the role of use studies and citation analysis; the structure of the publishing industry; how to judge a