

provement. The study of readers' services, extent of use of the library, and efficiency of the services are also strong parts of the survey which can and undoubtedly will yield immediate dividends to the University. The analysis of the inadequacies of the present library building is also direct and practical and suggests several alternatives through which improvements can be made.

Another strong feature of the survey is the analysis and study of the place of the Library in its state, its relationship with the libraries of other state higher educational institutions and the part it takes in regional and national library affairs. Analyses of this kind, increasingly used and stressed in library surveys, reflect the growing realization of librarians that no library is a complete and sharply separate entity and that all are a part of the warp and woof of the national library fabric.

The nub of every survey lies in the analysis of financial support since, other things being equal, the excellence or lack of excellence of a library rests on the financial support it receives. As in earlier surveys many of the recommendations made by the surveyors will require additional funds if they are to be carried out. This being so this reviewer believes that the Chapter dealing with financial requirements of the Library could have been more explicit and detailed than it is. Data regarding the financial status of the five departmental libraries are not tabulated in a single place and it is not entirely clear, from the survey, exactly how much the university is now spending, from all sources, for the maintenance of its libraries. The financial implications of having in these departmental libraries (with the exception of Law, and possibly Music), only materials duplicated in the Main Library, as the surveyors recommend in the chapter on Organization would have had more weight had the costs of centralization versus departmentation, to the extent it now exists, been projected in terms of dollars.

This survey will make worth while reading for library administrators generally. It is to be hoped that it will be read and pondered carefully by the administrators and librarians of all the smaller western universities and colleges. A few of these institutions have never recovered from pre-war depression levels of operation and are lagging woefully far behind Montana State University in the upbuilding and support of their libraries. For

these institutions this survey, if they will but use it, will be of as great or greater value than it will be to Montana State University.—*William H. Carlson, director of libraries, Oregon State System of Higher Education.*

Technical Libraries; Their Organization and Management

Technical Libraries; Their Organization and Management. Science-Technology Division, Special Libraries Association, Lucille Jackson, editor. New York, Special Libraries Association, c1951. 202 p. \$6.00.

This manual of practice for science-technology librarians is intended also to be used to acquaint executives of organizations with the nature and requirements of special library service and to serve as a text for library school students interested in special librarianship in these fields. About half of the text is a brief, comprehensive overview of library operations, including discussions of the nature of technical libraries, requirements for and qualifications of the staff, budget planning, physical layout and equipment, and the selection, acquisition and organization for use of library materials. Additional chapters deal with indexing and filing of special types of material such as patents, microcopies, slides, etc., methods of abstracting and publicizing current materials, reference procedures and literature searching in scientific literature, and ways and means of interpreting library service to users.

While most of the book summarizes in capsule form the fundamentals of library management discussed more fully in standard works like those of Drury, Mann, Lyle, Akers and others, references at the end of most chapters call attention to significant additional material in both library and non-library literature. An appendix (p. 155-95) lists basic reference publications for the technical library and representative reference sources, bibliographies and important periodicals in eighteen theoretical and applied science fields. While disagreement over the items included or excluded from these lists is to be expected, their value as guides seems lowered to this reviewer by their uneven quality and variable coverage. For example, theoretical physics is omitted, and there appears to be little coverage of electrical engineering, man-

agement engineering and mechanical engineering, all significant fields for a technological library.

The editing of the volume is uneven, and among the errors noted are a citation to the *United States Catalog* published in 1938 (p. 41), a suggestion that the *Monthly Checklist of State Publications* (whose title is inexactly cited) includes listings for significant municipal publications (p.51), reference (p.45) to a list of dealers on page 15 when that list occupies pages 46-47, and omission of the *Union List of Serials* in "Inclusive Listings of Periodicals" (p.58). Though many periodical abbreviations are used in the supplementary references at the end of chapters, no key to these abbreviations is included in the manual.

The book includes many lists of dealers and library supply houses and a number of descriptions for currently available library equipment and forms, which enhance the value of the book as a manual of practice. They also contribute to its early obsolescence.

Despite its faults, however, the book should be a useful manual in the smaller technical library where standard works on library administration are not readily available. Whether so long and so specific a how-to-do-it text is the most practical orientation for the busy executive is perhaps debatable. And it is hard to conceive that this manual can have much usefulness for the library school student whose needs extend considerably beyond the rather limited discussions of management and organization problems included here. For this last group of users, the chapter on reference techniques will probably offer the most useful information.—*Carlyle J. Frarey, Columbia University.*

The Subject Catalog

The Use of the Subject Catalog in the University of California Library. By Leroy C. Merritt. Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 1951. (University of California Publications in Librarianship, v. 1, no. 1) 18p. 35¢.

With this publication the University of California inaugurates a new series of studies in professional librarianship under the editorship of J. Periam Danton, Donald Coney, Robert Vosper, and Mr. Merritt. In an area where relatively few such series exist, the appearance of another is an event to be cele-

brated with appropriate commendation, encouragement and praise, particularly when the first number is so prophetic of the probable significance and excellence of others to follow. The study is well-designed and attractively printed, and the University of California deserves high praise for so auspicious a beginning. It would be encouraging to observe the development of similar series at other major library schools so that fuller reporting of the results of significant studies than is now feasible in existing professional journals might be realized.

Most, if not all of the previous studies of use of the subject catalog suggest that this approach to library materials is less-used than tradition maintains. Some studies have apprised us of the need for greater integration of printed bibliographies with the card catalog since bibliographies will give better access to a larger bulk of material and will be used more widely. In some other studies there is even a subtle implication that the relatively slight use of the subject catalog by scholars and specialists may justify its eventual abandonment, or at least its drastic reduction in size and scope. As Merritt points out, however, these studies have been limited largely to the use of the subject catalog by comparatively advanced students; "none . . . is concerned with the more casual use . . . by the average college undergraduate." This study reports an attempt to measure this casual use which seems to have resulted in important findings.

California, like other libraries faced with rising costs and static or declining budgets, was interested in reducing its cataloging costs. Careful analysis of contributing factors led to the conclusion that a truly meaningful reduction could result only from economies in subject cataloging. In this study Merritt reports the results of a year-long investigation to determine whether any curtailment of subject cataloging might be attempted without impairing service to catalog users too much. At California, such a study was made feasible by the existence of a divided catalog and by the installation of the IBM book charging system. In a series of samplings, each of which showed a high positive correlation with the others and with the total sample, 12.6 per cent of the total circulation of monographs "with catalog assistance" was analyzed. Although the resulting figures do not take