

of personnel cases may be considered a drawback, but assuming that role playing involves people, it is perhaps inevitable.

The volume should prove valuable to library educators and administrators who seek to use the case study-role playing technique for training their students or staff. It is a valuable work in its own right and not dependent on the set for its strength. On the other hand, it complements the other three volumes very effectively and libraries should consider the entire set as a homogeneous unit worth purchasing.—*Ann F. Painter, Graduate School of Library Science, Drexel University, Philadelphia.*

Veaner, Allen B. *The Evaluation of Micropublications: A Handbook for Librarians.* Chicago: American Library Association, 1971. 59p. \$3.25 (LTP Publication no.17).

If the question were posed as to who is the most knowledgeable librarian in this country to write a book about micropublications, the answer would have to be Allen B. Veaner. Based on his experience in administering a photoduplication service and in acquiring microforms at both Harvard and Stanford University libraries, his many previous contributions to library literature regarding library microforms, his activity in ALA and in numerous other professional organizations, and particularly his able chairmanship of the ALA, RTSD Micropublishing Subcommittee for the past six years, Veaner is eminently qualified to author this handbook. Veaner's gift for attention to pertinent detail is abundantly evident in this work which will serve as a bible for many years to come for anyone seeking information about micropublications. In fifty-nine pages this deceptively small booklet is crammed with a wealth of information for those responsible for acquiring, reviewing, evaluating, or producing micropublications. Veaner demonstrates the rare ability to present the many fine details that go into the production and evaluation of micropublications and yet to balance this with the perspective necessary to assess these in the proper light from the library administrator's point of view.

The handbook is divided into two major sections: (1) Micropublishing and Mi-

cropublications, and (2) Evaluation Procedures. The first twenty-two pages are devoted to a discussion of the micropublishing industry, microformats, film size and image legibility, film generations and polarity, the registration and preservation of master films, locating original material, production of hard copies, types of film, film stock, film coatings, archival permanence, and use of resolution charts. In the latter half of this booklet a complete step-by-step procedure for the evaluation of micropublications is presented, including how to review the publisher's prospectus, how to seek any additional information that may be necessary, and how to conduct the actual physical inspection of the micropublication by an inspection of the packaging of the product, inspection by a "light box," and a final inspection on a microviewer.

The librarian and even the technician need not be embarrassed at feeling overwhelmed by this handbook. It could have been entitled "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Micropublications" because its coverage is that complete. However, this is not a criticism but a testimony to the expertise and thoroughness of the author.

Veaner in essence has been writing this booklet for ten years and it is the right book by the right author at the right time. With reports due to be published shortly as a result of OE grants to ARL for studies on the bibliographical control of microforms and on the establishment of a permanent national microform agency, with the Denver Research Institute seeking to establish The Organization for Micro Information (OMI), with the quantity and variety of micropublications proliferating, as best illustrated by the GPO decision to make government documents available to depository libraries in microform, and with libraries and publishers increasingly being driven to micropublishing because of shrinking acquisition budgets and library space, events have conspired to make this LTP publication timely indeed. Those responsible for producing, acquiring, or reviewing micropublications will find this publication indispensable. Every medium- to large-sized library should acquire this essential reference work.—*Robert C. Sullivan, Order Division, Library of Congress.*