

O'Hara, Frederic J., ed. *Reader in Government Documents*. Washington, D.C.: Microcard Editions, 1973. 420 p. \$12.95.

Taking time off from his regular column, "Selected Government Publications," which appears in *Wilson Library Bulletin*, Professor O'Hara of the Graduate Library School at Long Island University has assembled twenty-five articles and excerpts introducing government documents. O'Hara's purpose was to collect literature that explains to the reader how to use documents, what documents currently exist or are still needed in certain fields, and what federal libraries have done, are doing, or plan to do in the future. This reader is the ninth volume to appear within the Reader Series in Library and Information Science, under the general editorship of Paul Wasserman. *Reader in Government Documents* continues with the series' goal of synthesizing the most essential contributions within given areas of librarianship and making the information easily accessible to all concerned.

In reality, this volume might be more precisely titled *Handbook in Government Documents*, for most of the articles are oriented within a practical "how-to" framework. O'Hara opens with a general discussion of depository libraries with current depository regulations, instructions to depository libraries, and an explanation of the Superintendent of Documents classification system. The second section concerns laws, regulations, Congress, and the courts. Here the reader finds a guide to Federal Register finding aids and how to locate U.S. statutes and U.S. code citations in addition to explaining the process of how bills become laws and the structure of the U.S. court system. Next are articles that describe the services of the national library, the National Archives, and the publications of the United Nations. O'Hara then presents articles about the National Advisory Commission on Libraries, the Federal Library Committee, and An Act to Establish a National Commission on Libraries & Information Science (Public Law 91-345). Extremely useful is the section on information-handling systems, reprinted from a handbook for government employees describing information storage and retrieval systems currently in use. The article provides summaries of

each system—including MARC, DDC, ERIC, and SDI, to name a few—and also provides operational flowcharts of the system. Other sections that O'Hara presents are discussions about social measurement and statistics; copyrights, patents, and trademarks; amending the Library Services and Construction Act; and careers in federal libraries.

The editor has assembled excellent authorities—including David Palmer, Douglas Knight, Dorothy Muse, and Norman Barbee—in this fine collection of articles. O'Hara is to be further congratulated for including articles that will enable more common folk to understand the workings of the federal government concerning its publications. Regarding O'Hara's specific selection of articles, this reviewer wishes only to quibble with the presence of two articles (Riddick and Fischer) discussing legislative procedures when one would have easily sufficed. It is also regrettable that although O'Hara saw fit to include an article about United Nations' documents he failed to include a discussion about the publications from the Organization of American States. Most apparent, however, is the brevity of O'Hara's introduction to the volume and his brief introductions to the individual articles. O'Hara's personal knowledge about government documents in the form of either an introductory essay or an annotated bibliography would have added much to this volume. These points aside, the volume is an excellent contribution and should be widely read and referred to by those researching in government publications, those enrolled in a government documents library science course, and those document librarians wishing to improve both their personal knowledge and their department's general reference service.—Charles R. McClure, *History-Government Librarian, University of Texas at El Paso*.

OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST TO ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS

American University Press Services, Inc. *Ad Guide, 1973-1974, An Advertiser's Guide to Scholarly Periodicals*. New York: AUPS, Inc., 1973. 304p. \$35.00.

Angoff, Allan, ed. *Public Relations for Li-*