

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

book for content and physical quality; the use of guides to recommended books; and book reviews.

Approximately ninety pages are then devoted to the special nature of selecting the following types of materials: free materials; public documents; periodicals; reference works; out-of-print, reprint, microform materials; and non-print materials (thirty pages).

The last half (two hundred pages) presents a series of discussions of various broad subject fields consisting of a description of the fields presented in such a way as to make one basically aware of their general content, the types of materials encountered, and problems and principles of selection unique to each subject field.

The author clearly states that this book is intended for use in introductory first courses on book selection in library schools, and as such it is useful. It is the purpose of an introductory text to present the basic elements of the topic and their interrelationships without involving the student with great amounts of detail. However, the usefulness of a text is greatly enhanced if it includes clear references to recommended supplementary readings from the literature which will carry the reader into the refinements of the subjects and answer any specific questions or desire for additional general information that might arise. The footnotes do not really serve the same function and, given the brevity with which many topics are treated, such a list of recommended readings would be most useful in this book. Broadus gives a brief explanation of the various aspects of publishing and selection, but this serves only as an introduction; details and solutions to problems encountered in their application must be sought elsewhere.

It is also readily apparent that the coverage of topics is sometimes uneven: approval plans are passed over in just sixteen lines; judging the content of a book is given less than one and one-half pages; but eight pages are devoted to quantitative measurement through use and citation studies. One would like to see more about the former, but not less about the latter.

Overall, however, this book does a fine job of imparting the importance of selection by librarians for the properly guided growth of a library's particular collection.—Thomas L. Mann, *Northwestern University*.

The Development of National Library and Information Services: Papers Given at the First Library Association International Workshop, London, 1981. Ed. by Edward Dudley. London: The Library Assn., 1983. 214p. £15. LC 82-240549. ISBN 0-85365-784-X.

The 15 papers included in this book were delivered at the First Library Association International Workshop held in London from August 24 through September 3, 1981. The workshop was structured so that there were "three separate but inter-related seminars," to cover broadly the themes of national library and information service development, the influence of social and technological change on library and information services (LIS), and education in libraries.

According to the editor of the book, Edward Dudley, the workshop attracted "some of Britain's leading practitioners and theorists in major areas of LIS development" to address "problems of some international relevance and then to seek to demonstrate British experience and response to those problems."

The first part of the book (Seminar 1) is concerned primarily with the role and function of national libraries, public libraries, academic and scientific libraries (defined very broadly to include school and special libraries), and bibliographic services in the development of national library and information services. The first paper in the book takes a more generalized view of "the nature of planning in relation to the LIS environment," particularly as it is applied in different political and social contexts.

Seminar 2 addresses the effects of social change and technological change on the provision of library and information services. Also included in this second seminar is a paper on using a systems approach to library planning, and one on the role of low-level technology and mechanized systems, which are more readily available