

gram of his own providing for increased subsidies to Swedish authors on a somewhat different basis. It would seem clear that the larger a country is, the less applicable is the demand of an author for a subsidy as reimbursement for free circulation of his books.

The last essay, by Helge Berthelson, an amanuensis at the Stockholm Public Library, deals with the libraries of the Uppsala student corporations (not "fraternities" in our sense of the word, as the author of the English summary translates *nation*). Ranging in size from 2,000 volumes in Gotlands Nation to some 34,000 in Vestmanlands-Dalas Nation, these libraries go back to the eighteenth century. Recent proposals include a union catalog (in process) and the establishment of a library of curricular reading to be selected from the present holdings of the corporation libraries.

This first collection of lectures at the Bibliotekstekniska Klubben is at once an informative and a provocative volume, and readers will look forward to the publication of a second series. —Lawrence S. Thompson, University of Kentucky Libraries.

Punched Cards

Punched Cards; Their Applications to Science and Industry. Edited by Robert S. Casey and James W. Perry. New York, Reinhold Publishing Corp., 1951. viii, 506p. \$10.00.

Though the general problem of the organization of knowledge and the specific matter of discovering the ways in which bits of data are interrelated are perhaps as old as recorded history, both have recently become matters of great and pressing concern. As the amount of time and money going into scientific research increases, the failure of conventional methods of literature control gives rise to experimentation with various mechanical devices. This book is a collection of papers on practices and philosophies developed for the most part by scientists who see the punched card as ". . . opening up new possibilities for coping with the growing mountain of research publication." (p. 9)

Over thirty individuals with first-hand experience in using punched cards or with an interest in them as a possible basis for solving the problem of bibliographic control have contributed to this book. Leading off with a

rather brief but fairly detailed description of the major varieties of punched cards, the editors then have rounded up a group of 14 case histories in a variety of fields, 10 papers on basic issues such as coding, indexing, and classification, and one on future possibilities, and have reproduced as the last section the extensive bibliography previously made available through the American Chemical Society.

As with most collections, the papers vary in quality considerably, and are to some extent repetitious. A few of the contributors approach their subject as though they had discovered both a problem and a solution hitherto unknown. Consequently, some bits of specious reasoning and rather elementary statements of philosophy are included which may amuse or annoy, depending on the reader. Some of the papers included are to be found in other sources, and few of the ideas expressed in the book are unique. However, for either the specialist with a problem to solve, or for the general librarian who proposes to keep informed on recent developments, *Punched Cards* should be of interest. For the specialist, it provides a handbook dealing with such specific matters as the spacing of code fields to such general considerations as a theoretical discussion on the number of combinations possible with various codes. The specialist will find a kind of ready-made literature search more complete than he could develop for himself for ten dollars' worth of time.

The general librarian will find less of interest. *Punched Cards* adds little, if anything, by way of new or unusual thinking; indeed, some may be annoyed by the rather airy dismissal of topics which have baffled experts in classification for years. For example, what constitutes "ample capacity for future expansion" of either a coding system or a classification scheme? Some of the papers in this book approach that problem, but none proposes any generally acceptable answer. Nonetheless, the book does provide a review of the uses of punched cards—both hand-sorted and machine-sorted—in information services of various kinds.

One of the most valuable parts of *Punched Cards* is its twenty-five page annotated "Bibliography on the Uses of Punched Cards." This reviewer had occasion to make extensive use of the bibliography in its original form (in the *Journal of Documentation*) and found it to be the most helpful single source of

information on its subject. In addition, the final paper by Dr. E. H. E. Pietsch on the proposed Gmelin Information Center contains dramatic evidence of the growth of research and publication in the sciences. In its presentation of the total problem of bibliographic control, this article is of definite interest—and, perhaps, the most valuable one in *Punched Cards*.—*Ralph Blasingame, Jr., Columbia University, School of Library Service.*

Early State Records

A Guide to the Microfilm Collection of Early State Records. Supplement, prepared by the Library of Congress in association with the University of North Carolina. Collected, compiled and edited by William Sumner Jenkins. Washington, D.C. Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress, 1951. 161p. (Offset Reproduction, \$3.00)

In the fall of 1950 the 800-page *Guide* was issued, the monumental significance of which has been noted in reviews at home and abroad. The *Supplement* released in January, 1952, extends the scope of the earlier publication by listing 170 reels of additional microfilm materials. The *Guide* lists 1,700 reels of film concerning six subject classes: legislative records, executive records, statutory law, constitutional records, administrative records, and court records. Within each class the material is arranged by states and chronologically within the state. The *Supplement* utilizes the same arrangement in the presentation of five additional classes: (L) local records—county and city, (M) records of American-Indian Nations, (N) newspapers, (R) rudimentary states and courts, and (X) Miscellany.

The two volumes represent one of the most comprehensive and worthwhile microfilming projects ever undertaken in the United States. The volumes provide a complete list of the historical state records that have been microfilmed during the past decade by a project sponsored jointly by the Library of Congress and the University of North Carolina.

History, government, and sociology students will find their range of possible research greatly extended by each of the five new classes covered in the *Supplement*.

In the section, Local Government Records,

only seven local units are covered. However, two of these, the New Orleans Cabildo records and the Texas Nacogdoches Archives, are most rewarding and suggest the feasibility of a more comprehensive collection of such local records. The very roots of our democratic development are to be found in the deliberations of local bodies in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Nothing is more exasperating to the scholar than to find his source material scattered in a multitude of libraries over the whole country. The future student of Indian affairs will be most grateful for the section of the *Supplement* covering the Records of American-Indian Nations. The resources at the Oklahoma Historical Society and the resources of many secondary repositories are now conveniently brought together on the film.

The preservation and storage of newspapers is one of the prime problems of librarians today, yet we know that the student wishing to use official records of many early governmental bodies must rely on the newspaper for the only extant printing of those records. In the fifty-odd reels covered by the section on newspapers in the *Supplement* an attempt was made to arrange in chronological files the official gazette in each of the colonies and the first newspaper in each of the territories. Extracting the official documents in each of the papers resulted in copying about half of the pertinent newspapers.

The student interested in frontier governments will find great help in that section of the *Supplement* dealing with Rudimentary States and Courts. In this class are collected the records of those bodies which possessed at some time the rudiments of organized government. These governments were sometimes abortive, provisional, revolutionary, rival, usually extra-legal, and always transitory. On the frontier local needs gave rise to provisional courts for the administration of civil and criminal justice. The use of this great body of records will help us separate legend and fact in many instances.

In a class of Miscellany are included a great lot of irregular and non-serial official material and some non-official material written about the states. A considerable amount of this is broadside and manuscript material not quite fitting the major classifications of the microfilm project. These forms occupy an important place among source materials avail-