validity of their sample and give no reasons why the reader should accept its validity, it does not seem worthwhile to consider the results of these analyses. The section on the evaluation of the document delivery service deserves only slightly more attention because the quality of sampling at Ohio State University affects the quality of the data collected. Not surprisingly, the authors found that "Ohio State University faculty who used the document delivery service held much more favorable attitudes toward the library as an information source and were very enthusiastic about the value of a document delivery service for faculty and graduate students." In the final chapter, "Other Findings of the Investigation," an interesting group of miscellaneous facts is presented. There are no suggestions for further research.—*Barbara Slanker, Director, ALA Office for Research, Chicago.*

Thompson, Lawrence S., comp. *The New Sabin; Books Described by Joseph Sabin and His Successors, Now Described Again on the Basis of Examination of Originals, and Fully Indexed by Title, Subject, Joint Authors, and Institutions and Agencies.* Troy, N.Y.: Whitston, 1974. v.1 and index (in 2v.). v.1, $25.00; index, $10.00.

Do we need a new Sabin? By rough calculation, the cost of this projected set is likely to be at least $1,500 (assuming prices remain at their present level), so librarians will want to examine it very carefully before deciding to invest this sum.

The ultimate scope of *The New Sabin* has not yet been established; although initially limited to items from Joseph Sabin's *Dictionary of Books Relating to America,* the compiler speaks in the preface of the possibility of adding items from other bibliographies such as Lyle Wright's *American Fiction, 1774–1850* in future volumes. This first installment consists of two volumes, one of which is an index to the other. Each main volume is to be a complete alphabet, but future index volumes will be cumulative and will include author entries. The main volume under consideration here "represents books which have been seen by the compiler in the original or one [sic] film, and the entries are copies of the descriptive portions of Library of Congress cards for the most part" (Preface). Although Sabin's original entries are often abbreviated and sometimes inaccurate in their particulars, most Sabin users are able to locate the Library of Congress entry, if one exists; this *New Sabin* innovation is actually a minor convenience. Moreover, Sabin's original annotations have been omitted entirely from the new work. For access to these valuable notes, often including information about other editions, the reader will have to use the original Sabin bibliography, making the new arrangement even less of an advantage. And since no provision has been made for correlating *New Sabin* and *Dictionary* entry numbers, working back from *New Sabin* to the *Dictionary* is not always an easy matter.

No location information is given in *The New Sabin*, even though the compiler has seen each item in the original or on film. It is left to the reader to locate copies through the use of other bibliographies, whether union lists or indexes to microform sets. Although Lost Cause Press is publishing selected works from Sabin's *Dictionary* in microform (for which Lawrence Thompson is also doing the bibliographic work), there is no indication that *The New Sabin* is connected with that set. Lost Cause Press itself is issuing catalogs which give Library of Congress entries for the Sabin works it is publishing in microform.

According to the compiler, "the greatest value of the present work is the subject index, combined with all other useful entries such as those for joint authors, issuing agencies, sub-titles, etc." The subject index, apparently based on Library of Congress headings, is certainly adequate for subjects on which little has been written; but, if the topic is the Civil War or George Washington, the reader is faced with a discouraging mass of undifferentiated item numbers. As the set grows larger the numbers will multiply, and many headings will become virtually useless. If the main arrangement of the new work were by subject, or if the complete entry were listed, the reader could more easily pick out appropriate items. It does seem that if *The New Sabin* has any contribution to make, it is by providing subject access to these early printed books and pamphlets, many of which may not turn up in subject bibliographies.

Many smaller failings—poor copy editing and outright errors—contribute to the impression of a poorly planned, hastily put together work. *The New Sabin* by no means supersedes Joseph Sabin's monumental *Dictionary*, and in its present form it fails to make a significant contribution of its own to the bibliographical control of Americana. —*Doris Ann Sweet, Columbia University Libraries, New York City.*

Carter, Mary Duncan; Bonk, Wallace John; and Magrill, Rose Mary. **Building Library Collections**. 4th ed. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1974. 415p.

This fourth edition of a library school "classic" has grown by some hundred pages yet remains, unsurprisingly, no more than a once-over-lightly of the complexities of acquisitions theory and practice. In an attempt to be inclusive it ranges from discussion of selection philosophies through description of national and trade bibliographies to a brief analysis of the uses of fanfold processing slips. As an introduction the text has already proven effective, although its usefulness is limited for experienced librarians.

The orientation is definitely toward public libraries, with an emphasis on the varying factors involved in book selection for different types and sizes of user communities. In an informally readable style the text restates commonsense principles and again illustrates that selection is more of an art than a science. Roughly the first half of the book is coverage of general theories while the second half is evenly split between description of acquisition aids and appendixes. The considerable portion of the text summarizing features of major bibliographic tools provides useful example entries to illustrate inclusiveness and format. Of course one difficulty with any book which tries to describe current bibliographic sources is that it is almost certain to be out of date by the time of publication. This edition has already missed the metamorphosis of *Publishers' Weekly*, the fifteenth edition of Ulrich's, and of course the recently announced separation of *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal*.

Discussion of the publishing trade and acquisitions practices is sketchy (e.g., no mention of NPAC), but throughout the book expanded bibliographies at chapter ends recommend a good range of additional material and have been brought well up to date. The approximate quarter of the volume devoted to appendixes offers a useful assortment of ALA Council statements on the freedom to read and a variety of quotations from book selection policies. Another interesting section is the text of the June 1973 Miller vs. California Supreme Court obscenity decision.

Occasional lapses in editing, generally of the typographical variety, are still evident in this new edition. Perhaps it was my misfortune to encounter the only blind cross reference in the index when I chose to look up USBE. However, even these minor slips are regrettable in a text which presumably will be read with close attention by prospective librarians.

In summary, the book is fine for its intended audience but of limited utility beyond library school classes.—*Karen Horny, Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services, Northwestern University Library, Evanston, Illinois.*

Schad, Jasper G., and Tanis, Norman E. **Problems in Developing Academic Library Collections**. New York: Bowker, 1974. 183p.

Collection development and acquisitions problems have often been relegated a minor role in library school curricula. The reasons for this vary, but the net result is the same—graduates with little practical, let alone theoretical, basis for action. In an attempt to counter this situation, the authors, both library directors, have created thirty case studies based on real situations, ranging from one to twenty pages in length. Superficially viewed, these studies might appear to be lacking in depth and subtlety, but a careful reading proves this not to be the case. Each situation is carefully constructed to present directly or by inference problems and dilemmas concerning a surprisingly broad range of topics.

Especially important for the student is the political and economic backdrop against which these problems are cast. Who really implements library policy? What is the proper balance between the academic administration, the library administration, the library staff, the faculty? Who controls