

periodicals, microforms, and computer tapes. However, it consists instead of four essays, each on a different nonbook material: printed ephemera, manuscript archives, and audiovisuals. The fourth, entitled "Non-Print Items," turns out to be concerned with the decorative aspects of libraries which are informative, such as murals, busts of writers, spheres, and globes!

This book is an outgrowth of a thesis submitted to the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, by the author who is director of the School of Librarianship at Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, Aberdeen. Orr stresses that this compilation of his thoughts, lectures, and writings is a "contribution," implying informal preliminary studies. The usefulness of this book in American library schools would be mainly as supplementary reading for general courses such as those dealing with the library in society or the library's role in communications.—*Budd L. Gambie, School of Library Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.*

Murphy, Marcy, and Johns, Claude J., Jr. *Handbook of Library Regulations*. Books in Library and Information Science, v.20. New York: Marcel Dekker, 1977. 162p. \$19.75. LC 76-19994. ISBN 0-8247-6498-6.

Without rules and regulations librarians would be as shaky as Tevye's fiddler on the roof, yet these are things of necessity. Necessity also might send one in search of a concise guide to general library rules and regulations, a handbook something akin to Asa Knowles' *Handbook of College and University Administration*. If the search leads to Murphy and Johns' *Handbook of Library Regulations*, there will be a degree of disappointment.

This book asserts to be an updated and edited version of the authors' article on library regulations in the new *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*. Except for a comparison section, a two-page appendix on library laws and legislation, and the deletion of the school libraries section, the book is basically a repeat of the original article. The new material does not add significantly to the information contained in the original article because the comparison sec-

tion (Chapter two) merely makes several trivial observations (e.g., "There can be little doubt, after reviewing these data, that research and probably most academic libraries provide many more hours of access each week than does any other sector"), and the appendix on library laws and legislation is much too brief to be useful. As to the deleted section on school libraries, it should have been deleted because it represented practices of only nineteen school libraries, scarcely a useful sample.

Both the book and the encyclopedia article are based on a questionnaire that the authors sent to 429 public, research, state, school, and special libraries in the United States and Canada. From the 349 responses to the questionnaire, the authors compiled data on library regulations as they relate to users, circulation, resources, interlibrary loan, reprography, and administration. The results are arranged by chapters according to the type of library with the statistical information being preceded, by way of introduction, with a definition of the type of library, its objectives, history, users, and trends. This elementary introductory material is specious, at best, and out of place in a book directed to the professional librarian.

The authors state in their introduction that they believe it would be helpful to have more information available about library regulations. This reviewer agrees, but he could not find it in this book because it really doesn't provide much useful information. For example, on page 1 the authors ask the following question, "Do most libraries have regulations which typically limit the acquisition of certain subjects?" Attempt to answer this question as it relates to public libraries, and what does one find in the book under review? Of the more than 12,000 public libraries in the United States the authors' data reveal that 102 public libraries do not limit acquisitions, 16 do, and 11 of these exclude law, medicine, and professional literature. The usefulness of this type of information is highly questionable and so would be the purchase of this book by any librarian with access to the original encyclopedia article.—*B. Donald Grose, Director of Library Services, Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne.*

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