

cited with lean analysis and synthesis of the data where appropriate. *Advances*, on the other hand, apparently gives more latitude to its reviewers. The very concept of what a review should be varies from chapter to chapter.

While it is true that most of the *Advances* reviews stick to descriptions of trends found in a hundred or so references, George W. Whitbeck and his associates went to the other extreme in the section "Funding Support for Research in Librarianship." Despairing of getting much help from published literature, the reviewers designed their own questionnaire study, on which they based their conclusions. They cite only six references.

Perhaps the best use of the freedom enjoyed by contributors to *Advances* is seen in Abraham Bookstein and Karl Kocher's explication of operations research (OR) as applied to libraries. It not only describes pertinent literature but also weaves the analysis into the clearest primer on OR to come down the pike so far.

Similarly, Carmel Maguire has produced the same effect by a different route, that of historical and documentary description of the background and current state of Australian librarianship. The present reviewer, who has spent some time in Australia, found this summary comprehensive, well condensed, lucid, and enlightening.

Although not exactly scintillating throughout, *Advances* provides many cases of challenging reading in the arid land of what Cassata has described as "pretentious and heavy handed" STOA prose. A good example of this is found in Charles W. Evans' review of "The Evolution of Paraprofessional Library Employees." The reaction of one paraprofessional staff member of the University of Oregon Library, Rebecca S. Bragg, administrative assistant, interlibrary loan service, confirms the lively character of the chapter whether or not one agrees with her generalization—Bragg found that the review "clearly defines and explains the history of the paranoia that most professional librarians have regarding paraprofessionals: that upgrading paraprofessionals would downgrade professionals."

In contrast to the systematic master plan of *ARIST*, the apparently eclectic policy of

Advances has produced a more timely and lively volume, perhaps at the expense of comprehensive coverage of the field over a period of years.

In the matter of indexing, *Advances* does not come off well. Not only has the author index been dropped this year but the subject index also consists of a virtually useless four pages which add little to the table of contents. The current *ARIST*, in contrast, devotes forty-seven pages to a true author and subject index plus a nine-page KWOC index to the whole set. Whereas *Advances* has never published a detailed cumulated index, *ARIST* did so in 1976.

Following is an abbreviated contents list of this excellent aid to updating one's awareness of the state of affairs in the important areas reviewed: "Intellectual Freedom in Librarianship" (David K. Berninghausen); "User Fees" (Thomas J. Waldhart and Trudi Bellardo); "Paraprofessional Library Employees" (Charles W. Evans); "Measuring Library Effectiveness" (Rosemary Ruhig Du Mont and Paul F. Du Mont); "Operations Research in Libraries" (Abraham Bookstein and Karl Kocher); "Funding for Research in Librarianship" (George W. Whitbeck, Jean Major, and Herbert S. White); "Medical Librarianship" (Donald D. Hendricks); and "Australian Library Service" (Carmel Maguire).—Perry D. Morrison, University of Oregon, Eugene.

Stoffle, Carla, and Karter, Simon. *Materials & Methods for History Research*. Library Edition. Bibliographical Instruction Series. New York: Libraryworks, 1979. 75, 101p. \$14.95 (plus \$1 postage and handling). LC 79-306. ISBN 0-918212-07-3. Available from: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 64 University Pl., New York, NY 10003. (Workbook available for \$4.95 each, minimum order five copies.)

Materials & Methods for History Research is the first publication in the Materials and Methods bibliographic instruction series. It is "designed to familiarize history students with the basic types of information sources available in the discipline, to introduce important examples of each type and to prepare students to use those information sources efficiently and effectively." The authors attempt to accomplish these goals by

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utilizing a laboratory-manual format. They examine a comprehensive variety of tools including guides to the literature, handbooks, yearbooks, atlases, subject dictionaries, indexes and abstracts, bibliographies, scholarly journals, newspapers, government documents, book reviews, and a chapter on research paper mechanics and methodology.

Each category is presented in a uniform arrangement. Stoffle and Karter list the objectives they seek to impart, provide an overview of up to two pages on the definition, purpose, and variety of each type of tool, and list annotated sources as examples. Several related titles are also noted with full bibliographical citations in the appendix. The sources used were chosen on the basis of three criteria: they are all in English; they are usually available in medium-size college libraries; and they are significant examples of titles with which history students should become familiar.

The purposes and uses of each type of

tool are reinforced in assignment sections that were designed to ensure immediate feedback. The questions are simple and precise and require the students to get the books in hand. As the authors have noted, there are no trick questions to hinder learning. Twenty separate sets of questions and answers are provided that permit individualized instruction and discourage student cooperation.

Other features of the instructor's manual edition include a "Checklist of Titles Used in Assignments" to facilitate checking the holdings of the teacher's library against the titles used in the assignment, an instructor's checklist, a schedule of due dates for the assignments, and many other helpful suggestions on how the book has been used at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater library.

This workbook can be used in a variety of ways other than in the three-credit history methods course for which it was originally designed. The authors have suggested non-credit study or continuing education pro-

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grams, history courses with a research focus, one- or two-credit historical bibliographical courses, graduate library courses, and independent or general study courses as appropriate settings.

Materials & Methods for History Research is a solid contribution to the literature of library instruction. It is comprehensive in scope, excellent in design and execution, and easy to use. Furthermore, it exposes students to a large number of sources and clearly relates the materials to the method. The authors are to be commended for their work.—*Daniel F. Ring, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan.*

SPINDEX Users Conference. Proceedings of a Meeting Held at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, March 31 and April 1, 1978. Edited by H. Thomas Hickerson. Ithaca, N.Y.: Dept. of Manuscripts and University Archives, Cornell University Libraries, 1979. 125p. \$5. LC 79-53690. (Available from: Office of Budget and Accounting, 234 Olin Library, Cornell University Libraries, Ithaca, NY 14853.)

Among the reasons for libraries to participate actively in OCLC, RLIN, and other automated data bases is the desire of reducing cataloging costs while simultaneously making new acquisitions more quickly accessible. Compared to libraries, however, archives have seemed to respond much more slowly to the challenge of providing improved access through automation. Due more to a lack of resources than to a lack of initiative, as well as the problem that costs cannot be shared given the uniqueness of archival and manuscript material, some repositories have nevertheless tried to develop alternatives to a manual system.

Of the systems developed to date, SPINDEX (Selective Permutation Indexing) is the best known. Designed originally in the mid-1960s at the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) to facilitate intellectual control over archival holdings, it was to serve also as a possible foundation for a national data base of information. As with earlier systems, the latest version, SPINDEX III, is available from NARS. In addition to producing finding aids, SPINDEX III has the capacity for being hierarchical in

nature with up to eight distinct levels for input. Thus a repository may choose to identify a collection only by using the first level, or if a collection warrants more detail, it can provide item description at the last level.

In the spring of 1978, a SPINDEX Users Conference convened at Cornell University to exchange information about the system. So that the information could be disseminated more broadly, an edited version of the proceedings was prepared for publication. In addition to appendixes, this volume contains the presentations of representatives from seven different organizations. The papers are arranged in the order in which they were given at the six major sessions of the meeting. The topics range in scope from current applications and the future to technical aspects of SPINDEX use and designing tag structures.

The volume will prove of particular interest to individuals who are considering the possible adoption of SPINDEX at their institutions. According to the comments made at the Cornell conference, this system appears to have a high degree of flexibility. It has been applied not only to certain collections in the Cornell University Archives and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History but also in private organizations such as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and, on a limited scale, in businesses. Further the form of material placed in the system so far includes archival records, photographs, maps, and select publications. SPINDEX also allows for subject access through the use of locally prepared thesauri that institutions can develop to meet their respective needs and programs.

Despite the informational nature of the volume, it suffers from unevenness in certain areas. Instead of the comparatively large amount of space given to the history of Public Utility Districts in the Pacific Northwest that appeared in one of the papers, a brief history of SPINDEX, in an introduction to the volume, would be more beneficial to potential users and other interested parties.

Admittedly, these proceedings resulted from a gathering of users who were familiar with the intricacies of SPINDEX. In pub-