

Recent Publications

BOOK REVIEWS

Sable, Martin H. *International and Area Studies Librarianship. Case Studies.* Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1973. 166p.

"International" and "comparative" are among the "in" concepts in librarianship these days, as witness the marked increase in library school curricula offerings, both in Great Britain and the United States, and the geometric increase of index entries under these rubrics in *Library Literature* and *Library and Information Science Abstracts*.

Mr. Sable, too, has climbed aboard this bandwagon in choosing the title of his new book. Its purpose is to enable "students and teachers at library schools world-wide to become more aware of their international responsibilities and opportunities" (p.vi). The twenty-nine cases presented do not, unfortunately, accomplish this aim. They offer, rather, a series of problems in acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, bibliography, personnel, and reference in academic libraries. Some, though by no means all, of the questions appended to the cases have to do with "foreign" publications, organizations, or institutions, but the basic problems posed by the cases are not international in nature; the international aspect is often incidental and not essential to the issues involved. Further, the questions for each case are generally a mixed bag; some have nothing to do with the "solution" of the problem, as do cases in law or business administration texts. Thus, the first case, "The Chinese Cataloger," is concerned solely with personnel policy questions which do not in the least depend upon the fact that the staff member involved happens to be competent in Chinese (p.16-17). In case four, "Foreign Folklore," the principal questions addressed to the student are whether folklore materials are essential in the teaching of Spanish and appropriate for a college library; what obligation the college librarian has in aiding an instructor to obtain materials she deems necessary for her teach-

ing; who is responsible for setting acquisitions policy; whether folklore is a discipline; and abstracting and indexing services in the field of folklore (p.34). Again, in case twenty-four, "International Noise Pollution Abstracts," the questions are bibliographical and reference ones (p.142-143). To call cases like these "international and area studies" seems to be stretching the concepts a bit.

The cases are presented clearly and logically, though often rather naively, and they offer useful, often important questions concerning academic library policy, particularly personnel policy, and on reference and bibliography, sometimes of a "foreign" nature. Library school teachers should find the work useful.

They will need to correct or modify, for the benefit of their students, a number of statements that appear throughout the work such as, for example, the following: "Dr. Avon has made it a practice of walking off with books without checking them out. Books that haven't even been cataloged yet" (p.36). [The anthropology department has] "commandeered the head of the reference department and she is now virtually working for the anthropology department." "It also seems that recently [professor] Avon has acquired one of our other reference librarians" (p.37). [The director of the University Library has] "introduced [the Farmington Plan] at those universities in which he served as acquisitions head" (p.120). [The titles acquired by the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging are] collected by the Library of Congress for distribution to universities . . . all over the country" (p.122).—J. Periam Danton, *School of Librarianship, University of California, Berkeley*.

White, Carl M., and others. *Sources of Information in the Social Sciences: A Guide to the Literature.* 2d ed. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1973.

Dr. White, in his introduction, states that "the purpose of the book is simple, to make

it easier to get at knowledge and information of importance to all of us . . . , to throw light on the workings of the social science information system, and to support subject bibliography as a branch of study." While the intent may be simple, no doubt execution of the intent was not. The book clearly is a result of meticulous scholarship, creative effort, and thoughtful selection. These combine beautifully under Dr. White's direction into a thorough, scholarly contribution to bibliographic literature.

The guide is divided into nine sections; social sciences in general, history, geography, economics and business administration, sociology, anthropology, psychology, education, and political science. Each section, as in the first edition, is made up of a bibliographic essay on the discipline and its literature, followed by guides to the literature and major reference works. The essays are excellent and readable. The lists of sources and guides have been selected and annotated by authorities active in their respective fields. Biographical and professional information about each contributor is included in the introduction and each section is signed.

A library would do well to keep both editions in its current reference collection. Because Dr. White's associates have changed, the essays and emphases have changed. In the case of anthropology, Bernard J. Siegel (professor of anthropology, Stanford University, and editor of *Biennial Review of Anthropology*) states specifically that his survey in the second edition covers the literature in anthropology between 1960 and 1971. It is inevitable that his bibliographic essay differs tremendously from that written by Felix Keesing in the first edition. The guides to the literature sections and reference materials sections are obviously more repetitive.

The format of the second edition is, in my opinion, far more inviting and pleasing than the first. The annotations are authoritative and useful. Cross-references are used extensively and well in dealing with this overlapping body of literature of the social sciences. The index is thorough.

I would recommend that general reference librarians at the college and university level not only *buy* this guide but *read* it as

well. We all need to be reminded of current developments in each of these fields, to be reminded of sources we do not use frequently, and to be reminded that guides of this quality exist. Many sit forever on the shelves unused unless recommended to the scholar by the librarian.—*Joyce Ball, University of Nevada Libraries, Reno.*

Archives Procedural Manual. St. Louis, Missouri: Washington University School of Medicine Library, 1973. 118p. \$5.00.

Consistency. If one word must catch the attention of a librarian or archivist, be this it. Perhaps more so for the archivist who must maintain a complexity of specific procedures within his/her department to provide adequate bibliographic control and organization. The entire gamut of acquisitions, processing, storage, and reference are involved within the archival limits. Recently, many archival institutions have been formalizing daily procedures within their department by way of a manual. Such attempts at standardization are commendable, for without procedural manuals archival consistency cannot be maintained. It is to this point that the staff at the archives of the Washington University School of Medicine Library addresses itself. This manual has been published to aid other archivists who might be considering setting up their own procedural system. Although the directions and forms apply to the specific situation at Washington University, the Washington University archival staff believes that the manual should be useful to the larger profession of archivists.

The format is a spiral-type notebook printed in typescript with accessibility somewhat restricted due to no index and an insufficiently concise table of contents. The manual lists in minute detail the established steps entailed for the archival process from acquiring material through providing reference service. In addition to the textual explanation, excellent work-flow charts provide an added depth to the work. Also included are chapters that deal with procedures for such material as sound recordings, pictures, maps, and microforms. Examples of specific request forms and internal control forms employed at the Washington University Archives are also present-