

viously announced files of System Development Corporation's ORBIT and Lockheed Information System's DIALOG systems, the directory already needs several update modifications reflecting vendor additions.

Overall, this work is recommended for any library which provides an active search service capability. To ensure its viability, it is urged that after the original one-year purchase, updated and additional pages be provided by ASIS at a nominal fee to the original subscribers.—*Patricia E. Vaughan, Coordinator, NASIC, New England Board of Higher Education, Wellesley, Massachusetts.*

Pitkin, Gary M. *Serials Automation in the United States: A Bibliographic History*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1976. 148p. \$6.00. LC 76-18116. ISBN 0-8108-0955-9.

According to the introduction, "the purpose of this book is to provide, in one place, access to all information published on the automation of serials control functions in the United States and cited in *Library Literature*." The book is an annotated, bibliographic history, covering the period from 1949 to 1974. Each entry, numbered and in chronological order, is annotated and contains complete bibliographic information. In addition, each entry briefly notes the major automation application, such as ordering, claiming, binding, etc., and the type of library, including the categories of academic, government, industry, medical, military, public, and secondary schools.

The annotations are well-written and informative, varying in length from one to four paragraphs, with ample quotes from the original item. The appendixes contain an index of the articles by serials control function (binding, claiming, holdings information, etc.), and there is also a complete author index.

This book will help anyone considering serials automation by providing concise information on the way in which other libraries faced the challenges of serials automation and by locating specific articles relevant to the library's particular automation needs. Its usefulness is diminished by its 1974 closing date for entries and the limitation to the United States.

Admittedly, most libraries contemplating

the automation of their serials control functions will have *Library Literature* at their disposal. However, this book, reasonably priced at \$6.00, provides a reliable, annotated literature survey and is highly recommended for any library or organization involved with serials automation.—*Jean Hawks, Director of Public Services, Northern Arizona University Libraries, Flagstaff.*

Sheehy, Eugene P. *Guide to Reference Books*. Compiled by Eugene P. Sheehy, with the assistance of Rita G. Keckeissen and Eileen McIlvaine. 9th ed. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1976. 1015p. \$30.00. LC 76-11751. ISBN 0-8389-0205-7.

It is difficult to consider doing a review of Kroeger/Mudge/Winchell/Sheehy without a feeling of reverence. Memories of the earlier editions from library school days on through years in the library profession bring proud recognition that the *Guide* has been a work of consistent excellence by librarians for the entire learning world. As one reads through the pages of this latest edition, there is the pleasure of recalling massive sets of volumes on shelves and of remembering authors whose careful work is always within reach and students whose puzzling questions have been answered.

As noted in the preface, very little has been dropped from the previous edition and much has been added. This fact was confirmed by checking sections throughout the cumulated index of Supplement 3 of the eighth edition with the index of the ninth. The omission of reference works on individual authors appears to be the major deletion. One can sympathize with compromises because of space requirements, but the omissions seem not to be done as consistently as would be desirable.

Inclusions are said to be classical writers and "a few indisputably major authors" (Pref. p.x). This decision results in no listing for American authors (there were twelve in the eighth), and only Goethe is left for German writers—Hegel, Heine, Kafka, Mann, Schiller having been dropped. Corneille, Moliere, and Racine remain of fourteen French authors in the eighth. There is a satisfactory explanatory note as to the treatment of this type of reference work in the English literature section; a