

not about collection development but is a compilation of fourteen previously unpublished, annotated subject bibliographies (or bibliographical essays in some cases). The work is focused on "the needs of a medium sized public library or undergraduate library clientele," and the bibliographies, designed to serve librarians building collections for general readers, should be very useful. The book's major strength is that it contains good bibliographies on areas of current interest—microcomputers, the aged, bioethics, farming—as well as such popular topics as careers, fantasy, dogs, and science fiction.—William Schenck, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*.

Schaefer, Barbara Kirsch. *Using the Mathematical Literature: A Practical Guide*. Books in Library and Information Science, v.25. New York: Marcel Dekker, 1979. 141p. \$19.75. LC 78-24537. ISBN 0-8247-6675-X.

Here is another book written by a librarian for librarians who need access to the mathematics literature. I suppose it is asking too much to hope that real library users might find it and enjoy it: these nonlibrarians might be helped by its simple, direct descriptions of classification systems and card catalogs and a careful explanation of what *Mathematical Reviews* is all about.

It is a sprightly up-to-date book covering selectively the literature of mathematics: greatest emphasis is put on pure or "core" mathematics without much dallying in the interdisciplinary swamp of applied mathematics, except for brief chapters on statistics and operations research, which are comparatively self-contained subjects. There is a definite bias toward American literature, especially the publications of the American Mathematics Society. Mathematics is one of the more international disciplines, and there is no mention of such important sources of papers as the French *Seminaire* publications.

The book begins with a concise history of mathematics, followed by an informative chapter on the nature of mathematics and its literature. Mathematical activity is divided into three segments; research, applications, and exposition. While the needs of the mathematical researcher can be satisfied

by access to a comparatively small amount of literature, applications-oriented mathematics is widely dispersed through a variety of subjects and a diverse collection of journals and abstracts.

The third segment, exposition, involves bringing together research from both pure and applied sources to arrive at consolidations, simplifications, and relations within a general body of theory. According to Schaefer, this last area is the most neglected and difficult: mathematics is less susceptible to rapid review than the rest of the sciences due to its abstract nature, dependence on old as well as new literature, and specialization.

The next area of discussion is information needs of mathematicians depending on the depth, currency, and focus of their interest. How the library and publishers organize literature to meet these needs is mentioned, along with the different forms this literature takes: journals, society publications, abstracts, monographic series, and reference sources are included. The book ends with two brief chapters on applied subjects, statistics and operations research, where the literature is pretty well packaged. No mention is made of the lack of a computer searchable data base for mathematics or the problems involved in this.

This is all presented in a fresh, direct style. I have only a few specific gripes. First, there is no mention of handbooks such as the CRC mathematics handbooks: even with the advent of hand calculators some tables are still useful to mathematicians. Second, for historical searches by author I find it useful to remember the sequence from Poggendorff; through the *Royal Society Catalog*, 1800–1900; the *International Catalog* (math section) 1905–15; the *Jahrbuch über die Fortschritte der Mathematik*, 1864–1936; then the *Zentralblatt*, beginning in 1931; and *Mathematical Reviews*, beginning in 1940. With this sequence you can access almost 200 years of mathematics literature. Third, there is too much concentration and explanation in Schaefer's book on the publications of the American Mathematics Society and not enough editorial comment on such things as the lack of a cumulated annual index for *Statistical Theory and Method Abstracts*.

Altogether this is a useful and practical guide to mathematics literature. It would be most applicable to college libraries rather than large research collections in mathematics, where there would be more stress on foreign literature.—*Alice W. Hall, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge.*

Lewanski, Richard C., comp. *Subject Collections in European Libraries*. 2d ed. New York: Bowker, 1978. 495p. \$52.50. ISBN 0-85935-011-8.

Roberts, Stephen; Cooper, Alan; and Gilder, Lesley, comps. *Research Libraries and Collections in the United Kingdom: A Selective Inventory and Guide*. London: Clive Bingley; Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books, 1978. 285p. \$25. LC 78-11560. ISBN 0-85157-258-8 Bingley; 0-208-01667-8 Linnet.

The two works of similar genre, by necessity selective and geographically limited, are both designed to aid the researcher and librarian, but their philosophies are somewhat different, as an examination of the arrangement of the contents reveals.

Lewanski believes in a strict subject approach as defined by the eighteenth edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification, which necessitates the repetition of information on libraries that may be strong in more than one subject. The author is himself aware of the shortcomings of the scheme for his purpose, yet so stern is his commitment to this approach that he adds only one index—an alphabetical key to the classification scheme.

The Roberts and others work, on the other hand, arranges the selection of UK libraries in alphabetic order in four groups: (1) national, specialist, and public libraries, (2) university libraries, (3) polytechnic libraries, (4) Scottish central institutions. Although not mentioned in the table of contents, some references to libraries in Northern Ireland are sprinkled among the first three categories. There are four indexes to this work: subject, name of collection, geographical, and list of libraries; the latter arranged in the same order as in the body of the text seems redundant.

Both works try to give essential information about the libraries, including address, name of librarian, date of foundation, size,

access, services rendered, hours, etc. (Roberts even lists phone and telex numbers.) This information, although unevenly supplied within each work, seems to be more detailed and exhaustive in Roberts. Both works list publications and guides describing the collections and libraries with each entry, the only difference being that more general guides are found in Lewanski after the subject entry while Roberts lists them in the beginning of the work (p.13-18).

Apart from the difficult task of obtaining, sorting, interpreting, and arranging massive materials, which the authors of both works had to face, Lewanski had to surmount in addition the problems of multilingual entries with diacritical marks (which he omits throughout) and the uniform transliteration of non-Roman scripts. In general, he succeeds in this and even translates the Slavic, Finno-Ugric, Greek, Albanian, and Turkish names of libraries, albeit not always idiomatically, which may in some instances be misleading. There are other types of mistakes which are almost unavoidable in a large and complicated work as this. There are the usual misprints such as "Kunliga" for Kungliga (p.481b last entry), "Franoiskanska" for Franciškanska (p.26 top), "Stata" for Stat (p.23a second entry from bottom). Pančevo is situated in Voivodina, not Slovenia as given (p.465a entry 4 from top). Apparently some misplacement occurred also in the subjects; at least the description of the collections would so indicate. Thus, for example, under 686 Printing—History and Technology for France, one finds the Vivaréz collection of ex libris that is not accounted for under 097 Book-Plates.

The above imperfections notwithstanding, every well-stocked reference department will want to acquire both works. As Lewanski requests, the scholar and researcher should continue to suggest improvements and make corrections so that the next edition will be exact and complete.—*Miroslav Krek, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.*

Wright, Kieth C. *Library and Information Services for Handicapped Individuals*. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1979. 196p. \$15 U.S. and Canada; \$18