

difficult to obtain; others either were never published at all or were published under very changed circumstances. An example is Lawrence Martin's biographical study of John Mitchell, which includes a cartobibliographical study of Mitchell's map of 1755. On page 215 of a piece first published in 1950, Ristow suggests the summer of 1952 as a probable date for the appearance of the Martin study. It was not published at that time, however. In Ristow's article "John Mitchell's Map . . ." in *A la Carte*,* one discovers that Martin died before his manuscript could be edited and published, that the manuscript itself had disappeared, and that Ristow was obliged to compile the 1972 article on Mitchell using work previously published by Martin.

Given the variety of data available in this volume it is unfortunate that editorial shortcomings will reduce its usefulness. It is puzzling that Shoe String Press, a publisher of library materials, has omitted an index. Ristow's articles were originally written to

**A la Carte; Selected Papers on Maps and Atlases*, compiled by Walter William Ristow (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1972).

stand alone, and there is a wealth of information included in each piece that is not reflected in its title. An index is always desirable, but in this case it is a necessity and the absence of even a simple guide is a serious oversight.

These omissions are more arresting because Shoe String Press went to the effort of resetting the texts of these thirty-five articles instead of publishing a facsimile reprint. There is no sign of any further input on their part, however. While the press' concern with form is appreciated, the lack of editorial concern with content is apparent.—*Susan L. Danforth, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.*

Clark, Brian, D.; Bisset, Ronald; and Wathern, Peter. *Environmental Impact Assessment: A Bibliography with Abstracts*. New York: Bowker, 1980. 516p. \$59.95. LC 79-67625. ISBN 0-8352-1255-6.

The growth of environmental literature over the last decade has been little short of phenomenal. Librarians who deal with environmental collections and the users who need to access them are always glad to see a

Midwest Library Service Announces Its Newly Expanded CONTINUATION AND STANDING ORDER SERVICE

We invite you to submit your Continuations List to us for prompt, efficient processing. Our publisher base includes approximately 500 selected publishers. We are thoroughly knowledgeable in all aspects of Standing Order procedures. For a copy of our new brochure on "CONTINUATION & STANDING ORDER SERVICE" please call us, using our TOLL-FREE WATS Line: 1-800-325-8833, or else write:



Mr. Howard Lesser
President
Midwest Library Service
11443 St. Charles Rock Road
Bridgeton, Mo. 63044

Once your order is received, a Personal Customer Service Representative will be assigned to your library to assist you.

new work that holds promise of systematizing at least a part of that burgeoning literature.

Environmental Impact Assessment: A Bibliography with Abstracts is an ambitious attempt along these lines. Specifically, the book seeks to order and explicate recent publications that deal with environmental study and evaluation as a decision-making process. The work is divided into five principal classified sections. The largest of these deals with assessment in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, continental Europe, and selected other countries. Although there is attention to methodology both as theory and practice, the thrust of the work pertains to the legal bases and administrative processes involved in assessment. Together with the introductory material accompanying each section, this emphasis bespeaks an intended audience of assessment administrators who already have more than a passing knowledge of factors involved in the process. Unfortunately, even these users might need ample fortitude to grapple with the book: the prose is dense; the seventeen subsections lack internal classification; and, while the author index is excellent, the subject index contains only 367 points of entry and no cross-references. Furthermore, although each citation bears a unique alphanumeric designation, the lack of an alphabetic arrangement to the subsections, and therefore the alphanumeric entries, makes quick referral from either index difficult.

This volume also raises an unsettling question regarding sales promotion. As noted, the work's subtitle is *A Bibliography with Abstracts*. The publisher's announcement that recently came our way elaborated on this by describing the book as a "single, comprehensive, annotated bibliography" that covers, among other things, "information sources, abstracting all major references (over 1,000 of them!) with critical comment where appropriate." Indeed, the book does offer more than one thousand citations, all with full, clear bibliographic information. However, only 55 percent (595) of these are annotated, frequently to an extent unusual in bibliographies. The remaining 493 citations are altogether bare of summary or evaluation. Nor are these unannotated citations evenly distributed over sub-

ject areas. In seven of the seventeen subsections more than 50 percent of the citations are unannotated. Unfortunately, two of these subsections are expressly devoted to assessment in the U.S. Although there are substantial numbers of annotated U.S. entries elsewhere in the book, users focusing on the U.S. experience may find the going difficult. Conversely, users studying the assessment process as it functions in the United Kingdom or continental Europe may find it quite beneficial to their investigation.

In short, unlike most bibliographies, this work, while having reference value, will not lend itself readily to typical reference service in the college library. Its greatest value will probably be to the serious user who is compelled by need and blessed with time.—*Patricia B. Devlin, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.*

Li, Tze-Chung. *Social Science Reference Sources: A Practical Guide*. Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science, no.30. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1980. \$25. LC 79-54052. ISBN 0-313-21473-5.

This book is the outgrowth of a course syllabus and is intended to be the text for a one-semester library science course. In part I the author discusses the social sciences in general. Part II is made up of eight chapters, each dealing with one of the social sciences. The arrangement for parts I and II is similar: an essay by the author on the nature of the science or sciences followed by sections on access to materials, sources of information, and major periodicals. Part I includes chapters on government publications, unpublished materials and data archives, and data bases.

Source materials are discussed in bibliographic essays with the standard, more important items separately listed. The author's own alphanumeric designation for each item would be helpful to students in compiling class notes and book cards. The author has included with the standard material descriptive information that is accurate, if sometimes superficial.

The arrangement of the text and the style of presentation reflect the author's preferences rather than a design for general use. Since the author has prepared the text primarily for library science students, much of