# Identifying Technical Reports Through U.S. Government Research Reports and Its Published Indexes

Librarians often have difficulty identifying technical reports because of the variation in government abstracting services, and the variation within these services from year to year. It is difficult to locate information in one place on separately or privately published indexes to the material contained in such services. Descriptions are given here for U.S. Government Research Reports, its two predecessor titles, and eight separately published indexes to that material, for the period 1946-1964, as well as a chart showing which access to the material is provided in which index for each year.

Scientific and technical report literature forms one of the large fields of current publication. Academic librarians have found their need for these reports increasing year by year since World War II. particularly in institutions conducting research on government contract. These reports have attained importance as a separate medium of communication because of characteristics-such as security classification-which often prevent their being published as conventional journal articles. There often is an obligation on the part of the researcher to report on the contract more promptly than is possible in journals. Contractors often need to know the results of other governmentsponsored research promptly.1 While the contents of some reports are later published in journals, a problem discussed by J. E. Woolston in the Journal of Documentation in 1953, there often is a time

lag of twelve months or more before such publication.<sup>2</sup> The data, furthermore, in such reissues is frequently presented in abbreviated form. These combined factors make it necessary for those interested in such reports to have access to the reports themselves, in their own libraries, in available interlibrary loans or in the Defense Documentation Service.

The ability to supply research workers with the reports they need, in a reasonable period of time, requires a working knowledge of the government abstracting services designed for them. Even in the library which catalogs its own report collection completely, reports not in the collection must be identified by means of these services. Some of them, such as the Atomic Energy Commission's Nuclear Science Abstracts, have been adequately and consistently indexed from their beginnings. An examination of a volume, or referral to a standard reference guide. such as Winchell's Guide to Reference Books, is all that is required to use them.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>D. E. Gray, "Controlling the Technical Report," Bibliography of Technical Reports, XVI (November 1951), 141-42.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> J. E. Woolston, "American Technical Reports; Their Importance and How to Obtain Them," *Journal* of Documentation, IX (December 1953), 211-19.

Others, however, have varied so much over the years that examination of a single volume is not adequate for a working knowledge of the series. Often the reference guides list the current form of publication with no indication that indexes have changed through the years.

The U.S. Government Research Reports, with its predecessor titles Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports and Bibliography of Technical Reports, has abstracted and announced the availability of a large heterogeneous group of such reports, known as the PB reports, since 1946. The PB reports were originally named for the Publication Board which was established in 1945 to organize the release of American wartime scientific and technical data. By June 30, 1946, several groups having responsibility for these materials were brought together under a new agency, The Office of Technical Services.3 The initials PB, followed by an accession number, had been used as a device for organizing the diverse reports from many sources in order to facilitate their abstracting and announcement, and this device has been continued. The history of the U.S. Government Research Reports shows many slight changes in publication, in frequency of issue, and in indexing, which, when compounded over the years, make it difficult for the user to recall quickly and accurately which stage of development it had attained at the time of a desired report. For the first few years only a subject index was published by the service, leaving other approaches to the material unpublished. To fill these gaps government agencies, societies, and commercial services have published retrospective indexes. Identification and understanding of these separate indexes is necessary for effective use of the service.

The following bibliographic descrip-

tions, with explanations of arrangement and use, were compiled to bring together information about this service, its predecessor titles, and the indexes separately published. They are accompanied by a chart which shows, volume by volume, the means of access to the material, such as by personal author and corporate author, and explains which indexes to use for each.

During 1964 the functions of the Office of Technical Services which had published U.S. Government Research Reports were transferred to the National Bureau of Standards and formed a basis for establishment of a new agency, the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information. The Clearinghouse assumed the publication in 1965 of the abstracting service, the name of which was then changed to U.S. Government Research and Development Reports. The scope of the program administered by the Clearinghouse differs considerably from that of the old Office of Technical Services, bringing together a number of similar functions within the government. Because that alteration affected the scope of its abstracting program, the year 1964 was chosen as an appropriate terminus for this report.

# Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports.

Publisher: U.S. Office of Technical Services, Washington, D.C.

Date of Publication: v.l, January 1946-v.ll, June 1949.

Note: Continued after v.11 by Bibliography of Technical Reports.

FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION:

Issued weekly, v.1, January 1946-v.9, June 1948.

Issued monthly, v.10, July 1948-v.11, June 1949.

Note: v.1 covers 6 months, January-June 1946.

v.2-v.9 cover 3 months each, July 1946-June 1948.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce. Annual Report of the Secretary of Commerce (34th, 1946), pp. xxvii.

v.10-v.11 cover 6 months each, July 1948-June 1949.

#### INDEXES:

Subject—issued for each volume, 1-11. Gives PB number and page reference of abstract.

List of German patents—included in subject index for v.3-v.5 arranged by subject groups, gives page reference.

List of Japanese patents—included in subject index for v.5 arranged by patent number, gives page reference.

# Bibliography of Technical Reports.

Publisher: U.S. Office of Technical Services, Washington, D.C.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: v.12, July 1949-v.22. December 1954.

Note: Prior to v.12 issued under its earlier title, Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports.

Continued after v.22 by its new title, U.S. Government Research Reports.

Frequency of Publication: Issued monthly.

Note: Each volume covers 6 months.

SUPPLEMENTS AND INCLUSIONS:

Technical Reports News Letter included, v.12, July 1949-December 1952 (issues nos. 1-36).

Note: Also issued separately, nos. 1-36, and continued as a separate publication through no. 186, December 1964.

#### INDEXES:

Subject—issued for each volume, 12-22. gives PB number and page reference of abstract.

Numerical Index to PB Reports—issued for each volume, 20-22, gives page reference of abstract.

# U.S. Government Research Reports.

Publisher: U.S. Office of Technical Services, Washington, D.C.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: v.23, January 1955-v.39, December 1964.

Note: Prior to v.23 issued under its earlier title, Bibliography of Technical Reports.

Continued after v.39 by its new title, U.S. Government Research and Development Reports, published by the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information.

#### FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION:

Issued monthly, v.23, January 1955-v.35, June 1961.

Issued semimonthly, v.36, July 1961-v.39, December 1964.

Note: v. 23-v.36 cover 6 months each, January 1955-December 1961. v.37-v.39 cover 1 year each, 1962-1964.

#### SUPPLEMENTS AND INCLUSIONS:

v.33, Supplement, April 1960, issued to announce older research reports not previously listed. It includes no abstracts. It has a separate table of contents, subject index and number index. None of the reports listed in this supplement are included in the index to the main volume.

#### INDEXES:

Subject—issued for each volume, 23-30 (cf. Cumulative Index, below) gives PB number and page reference of abstract.

PB Reports Numerical Index—issued for each volume, 23-30 (cf. Cumulative Index, below). Gives page reference of abstract.

AEC Reports Numerical Index—issued for each volume, 24-30, (cf. Cumulative Index, below). Gives page reference of abstract.

Cumulative Index—issued for each volume, 31-38.

Note: Cumulative Index for v.39, 1964, not yet published, Spring 1966.

Subject—gives PB number and page reference of abstract.

Number Index—meludes PB, AEC, and other report series

numbers, gives page reference of abstract.

Source Index—arranged by corporate author, gives PB number and page reference of abstract.

Alpha-Numerical Index with Correlations, United States Government Research Reports.

AUTHOR: Compiled by Nina Holt Bradshaw.

Publisher: Technical Information Service, 1030 Woodward Building, Washington, D.C.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: v.1- 1965-

FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION:

v.1 published 1965.

v.2 not yet published, Spring 1966.

Note: Tentative delivery date for v.2 set for December 27-31, 1965, was not met due to delays of paper shipments. (Source: Technical Information Service, Special Bulletin No. 1-A/SR-12, December 31, 1965.)

SCOPE:

Entire publication will cover v.23, January 1955-v.39, December 1964, of U.S. Government Research Reports.

v.I also includes reports included in Correlation Index of Technical Reports (AD-PB Reports), issued by U.S. Office of Technical Services as PB 151-567-S, which covers unclassified AD reports, AD 1-AD 75,000.

v.2 will include only AD listings, thus a "key" section, such as TAB 4 in v.1 (see below, Arrangement) will not be required. (Source: Letter from Nina Holt Bradshaw, Director, Technical Information Service, December 9, 1965).

ARRANGEMENT:

v.1 in 4 sections as follows:

TAB 1: Alpha-numerical section, 4 WG-M 80-1-ACRLI-TP

TAB 2: AD 2-AD 99,991.

TAB 3: Supplement 1, AD 716-AD 70,605.

TAB 4: Keys

1. Series abbreviations.

2. Issuing agencies.

EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT:

TAB 1 in v.1: included first are the report series beginning with numbers and followed by letters and numbers, *i.e.* 4 WG M stands for 4th Weather Group, Memoranda, and the first report listed is number 80-1 of that series. The listing progresses through 62 RL- (Nos.) where the 62 is a date prefix, and RL is the series designation for General Electric Research Laboratories (explained in TAB 4: Keys, Series abbreviations).

Following the reports beginning with numbers is an alphabetical listing of reports by series designation.

Note: Included here are many U.S. Air
Force report series designations, headed by AAF, such as
ASD-TDR, RADC, WADC,
listed as AAF-ASD-TDR,
AAF-RADC, and AAFWADC. The following explanation has been provided
by Nina Holt Bradshaw in
a letter dated December 9,
1965:

In vols. 1-24 (1946-1955) of the bibliography [Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports, Bibliography of Technical Reports, and U.S. Government Research Reports] the prefix AAF, (U.S.) Army Air Force, is used with the abbreviation for all Air Force labs or research centers. Beginning with vol. 25 (1956) the prefix was changed to AF, (U.S.) Air Force, except for an occasion (sic) listing of AAF in the January, February and March issues . . . Use of AF for all Air Force reports continues through vol. 30 (1958). Then, beginning with vol. 31 (1959), the prefix is dropped entirely, leaving WADC or WADD. This form is currently used and is so filed in government libraries. The AAF and AF prefixes remain as they were filed when these prefixes were being used. It is important that my files agree with the government files.

Other Air Force acronyms have been shortened where it is obvious that the report, prepared at a research center or laboratory located at an Air Force Base, would be an Air Force report and does not need a prefix to identify it as such.

## Correlation Index: Document Series and PB Reports.

AUTHOR: Compiled by the Science-Technology Group, Special Libraries Council of Philadelphia and Vicinity, with the cooperation of Office of Technical Services, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. Edited by Gretchen E. Runge.

PUBLISHER: Special Libraries Association. DATE OF PUBLICATION: 1953.

FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION: a single publication.

Scope: Includes reports listed in Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports, and Bibliography of Technical Reports, v.1-v.17, January 1946-June 1952.

#### ARRANGEMENT:

Correlation Index, Document Series and PB Reports, pp. 1-220.

Key to Series Abbreviations, pp. 221-250.

Key to Issuing Agencies, pp. 251-264.

Sources of Research and Development Reports from the Government, pp. 265-271.

#### Explanation of Arrangement:

Correlation Index is arranged by the report series designation, and gives the PB number.

Key to Series Abbreviations lists the alphabetical report series designations, and gives the issuing agency's name.

Key to Issuing Agencies lists the agencies alphabetically and gives the report series designation.

## Correlation Index of Technical Reports (AD-PB Reports).

AUTHOR: U.S. Armed Services Technical Information Agency and U.S. Office of Technical Services.

Publisher: U.S. Office of Technical Ser-

vices, Washington, D.C. Note: Issued as PB 151 567-S. Issued as a supplement to Subject Index to Unclassified ASTIA Documents published in 9 volumes by U.S. Office of Technical Services as PB 151 567 [1960] That index covers only AD (ASTIA Document) reports, distributed by Armed Services Technical Information Agency, and therefore is outside the scope of this paper. The supplement, however, relates the AD number to a corresponding PB number under which the Office of Technical Services distributed some of these reports, and hence is within the scope of the paper.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: March, 1958.

FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION: a single publication.

Scope: Unclassified AD reports, AD 1-AD 75,000.

#### ARRANGEMENT:

Numerical arrangement by AD number, gives corresponding PB number and, where copies are available, the price of a copy in microfilm, photocopy, or other.

# EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT:

Reports for which no priced copies are shown were available, at the time of publication of this index, to qualified Department of Defense contractors only, from the Armed Services Technical Information Agency, Washington, D.C. These may now be available from the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, which assumed the functions of OTS and may have assumed the functions of ASTIA under its later name, Defense Documentation Center (DDC).

Copies of priced reports were available from OTS, by the PB number at the price shown, and may now be available from the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical information.

## Index to PB Reports Listed in U.S. Government Research Reports.

AUTHOR: Compiled by Nina Holt Brad-

Publisher: Technical Information Service, 1030 Woodward Building, Washington, D.C.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 1953 (?)-

FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION:

Issued monthly, 1953-1960.

Semiannual cumulations, 1953-1960.

Annual cumulations, 1953-1959. Cumulations for 1960-1962 not yet published, in preparation, Spring 1966.

Scope: Includes the reports in U.S. Government Research Reports for the year indexed, i.e. the 1953 Index covers material in the 1953 volumes of U.S. Government Research Reports.

#### ARRANGEMENT:

Part I: Numerical index.

Part II: Correlations with PB num-

Part III: Cooperating research laboratories.

Part IV: Author index

Part V: (1955-1957 only) Listing by

subject classification; Key

to classification code numbers; key to abbreviations.

(1955-1957; as Part V 1958) Part VI: List of printed reports available from OTS.

#### EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT:

Part I: Numerical arrangement by PB number, gives volume and page number of USGRR reference, followed by a second section arranged alpha-numerically by AEC report series, gives volume and page number of USGRR reference.

Part II: Arranged alpha-numerically by report series designation, gives PB number.

Part III: Corporate author index arranged in sections as follows:

1-Industrial research laboratories of the United States.

2-College and universities of the United States.

3-U.S. government laboratories.

4-Foreign institutions and governments.

5-U.S. Atomic Energy Commission laboratories.

Part IV: Arranged alphabetically by author's name, in 2 sections, the first for PB re-

#### NOTES FOR TABLE ON FACING PAGE

X-Indexes published by OTS as part of the abstracting service.

x-Included in index to which it is connected.

Alpha—Alpha-Numerical Index with Correlations, United States Government Research Reports. Corr.—Correlation Index: Document Series and PB Reports.

Ind.-PB—Index to PB Reports Listed in U.S. Government Research Reports. Key—Keywords Index to U.S. Government Technical Reports.

Num. Ind.—Numerical Index to the Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports.

Num. Sup.—Numerical Index Supplement to the Bibliography of Technical Reports.

do.-Indicates that the index listed above the do marks is cumulative to the end of the do. marks.

# A GUIDE TO INDEXES FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT RESEARCH REPORTS, 1946-1964

	Subject	Corporate Author	Personal Author	Index by Report No.	Correlation Index to Report Nos.	Title
Bibliography of						
Scientific and				January 1		
Industrial Reports:	N.			N 7 1		
JanJune, 1946 v.1	X			Num. Ind.	Num. Ind. Corr.	
Oct. 4-Sept. 27, 1946 v.2	X			do.	Ja Ja	
Oct. 4-Dec. 27,				uo.	do. do.	
1946 v.3	X			do.	do. do.	
Jan. 3-Mar. 28,			200	,		
1947 v.4	X			do.	do. do.	
April 5-June 27,				do.	1. 1.	
1947 v.5 July 4-Sept. 26,	X			uo.	do. do.	
1947 v.6	X			do.	do. do.	
Oct. 3-Dec. 26,	Α		100	A MEDIA	uo. uo.	
1947 v.7	X		100	do.	do. do.	
Jan. 2-Mar. 26,				do.	, ,	
1948 v.8	X			do.	do. do.	
April 2-June 25, 1948 v.9	v			do.	do. do.	
July-Dec., 1948 v.10	X			do.	do. do.	
JanJune, 1949 v.11	X			Num. Sup.	do.	
Bibliography of						
Technical Reports:			134	Num Sun	,	
July-Dec., 1949 v.12	X			Num. Sup. Num. Sup.	do.	
JanJune, 1950 v.13 July-Dec., 1950 v.14	A V			Num. Sup.	do. do.	
JanJune, 1951 v.15	X X			Num. Sup.	do.	
July-Dec., 1951 v.16	X			Num. Sup.	do.	
JanJune, 1952 v.17	X X X X X			Num. Sup.	do.	
July-Dec.,1952 v.18	X			Num. Sup.	v 1 pp	
JanJune, 1953 v.19	X	IndPB	IndPB	Num. Sup. IndPB	IndPB	
July-Dec., 1953 v.20	X	do.	do.	do.	do.	
JanJune, 1954 v.21	X	IndPB	IndPB	IndPB, X	IndPB	
July-Dec., 1954 v.22	X	do.	do.	do. X	do.	
U.S. Government						
Research Reports: JanJune, 1955 v.23	X	IndPB	IndPB	IndPB, X	IndPB Alpha	
July-Dec., 1955 v.24	X	do.	do.	do. X	do. do.	
JanJune, 1956 v.25		IndPB	IndPB	IndPB, X	IndPB, do.	
July-Dec., 1956 v.26	X X X	do.	do.	do. X	do. do.	
JanJune, 1957 v.27	X	IndPB	IndPB	IndPB, X do. X	IndPB, do.	
July-Dec., 1957 v.28	X	do.	do.	do. X IndPB, X	do. do.	
JanJune, 1958 v.29 July-Dec., 1958 v.30	XX	IndPB do.	IndPB do.	do. X	IndPB, do.	
JanJune, 1959 v.31	X	IndPB, X	IndPB	IndPB, x	X, IndPB do.	
July-Dec., 1959 v.32	X	do.	do.	do. x	X do. do.	
JanJune, 1960 v.33	X	IndPB, X	IndPB	IndPB, x	X, IndPB do.	
July-Dec., 1960 v.34	X	IndPB, X	IndPB	IndPB, x	X, IndPB do.	
JanJune, 1961 v.35 July-Dec., 1961 v.36	X	X		X	X do.	V b - man
July-Dec., 1961 v.36 1962 v.37	X	X		X X	X do. X do.	Key began June 15
1962 v.37 1963 v.38	X X X	X X X	Key	x	X do. X do.	do.
1000 0.00	A		began	755	do.	Key ended
	15000		April 1			Sept. 1
	1000		ended			
1004 00			Sept. 1			
1964 v.39						

ports, gives PB number, the second for AEC reports, gives AEC series designation and number.

Part V: Lists 51 broad subject categories of PB reports and 12 categories of AEC reports.

#### Keywords Index to U.S. Government Technical Reports (Permuted Title Index).

Publisher: U.S. Office of Technical Services, Washington, D.C.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: v.1, no.1, June 15, 1962-v.2, no. 6, September 1, 1963.

FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATIONS: Issued semimonthly.

Scope: Each issue indexes the material in the issue of U.S. Government Research Reports for that date.

ARRANGEMENT:

Each issue, v.1, no.1, June 15, 1962-v.1, no. 19, March 15, 1963:

Part I: Keywords index. Part II: Corporate author.

Each issue, v.1, nos.20-24, April 1, 1963-June 1, 1963, v.2, nos.1-6, June 15, 1963-September 1, 1963:

Section A: Keywords index.

Section B: Personal author index.

Section C: Corporate author index.

EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT:

Keywords Index is a permuted title index, arranged alphabetically by keyword, gives report identification number, price and reference number to Corporate author section of index.

Personal author index is arranged alphabetically by author's name, gives reference number to Corporate au-

thor section of index.

Corporate author index is arranged alphabetically by corporate author, gives title, personal author, date of publication, number of pages, contract and report series designation and numbers, identification number and price.

Numerical Index to the Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports, Volumes 1-10, 1946-1948.

AUTHOR: Compiled by the Science-Technology Group, Special Libraries Council of Philadelphia and Vicinity, with the cooperation of Socony-Vacuum Laboratories and Office of Technical Services. Edited by the Science-Technology Group, Special Libraries Association.

Publisher: Special Libraries Association.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 1949.

FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION: a single publication.

Supplements and Inclusions: see Numerical Index Supplement to the Bibliography of Technical Reports, issued by the U.S. Office of Technical Services.

Scope: Indexes the reports listed in Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports, v.1-10, 1946-1948.

ARRANGEMENT:

Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports, table of pagination, gives volume and issue number, pages contained therein, and date of issue.

Symbols.

PB numerical index, pp. 1-402.

German patent number index, pp. 403-456.

Japanese patent number index, pp. 457-458.

BIOS final report correlation, pp. 459-464.

CIOS evaluation report correlation, pp. 465-470.

FD report correlation, pp. 471-476.

FIAT final report correlation, pp. 477-482.

MDDC and AECD report correlation, pp. 483-485.

OSRD report correlation, pp. 486-495. Index to classified German patent applications, pp. 499-517.

Bibliography, subject indexes, classified lists, correlations, pp. 519-522.

EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT:

PB numerical index, German and Japanese patent number indexes give volume and page reference to Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports.

All other sections give PB number.

# Numerical Index Supplement to the Bibliography of Technical Reports.

Publisher: U.S. Office of Technical Services, Washington, D.C.

Note: Issued as a supplement to the Bibliography of Technical Reports, and as a continuation of the Numerical Index of Scientific and Industrial Reports, Volumes 1-10, 1946-1948, compiled by the Special Libraries Council of Philadelphia and Vicinity, and published by the Special Libraries Association.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: Nos. 1-9, 1949-1953.

Frequency of Publication: Semiannual. Scope: Each number indexes the reports in one volume of the Bibliography of Technical Reports, v.11, January, 1949-v.19, June, 1953.

Arrangement: A numerical list arranged by PB number, gives page reference to the volume of Bibliography of Technical reports. Numerical & Correlation (N & C) Edition of Index to PB Reports, Volumes 11-22, 1949-1954.

Author: Compiled by Nina Holt Bradshaw.

Publisher: Technical Information Service, 1030 Woodward Building, Washington, D.C.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: not yet published, Spring 1966.

Note: Due to loss of the plates, the index, originally scheduled for publication in 1957, has not yet been published. However, courtesy copies of Parts I and V were issued to those who had placed orders. The entire publication is now tentatively scheduled for sometime in 1966. (Source: Letter from Nina Holt Bradshaw, Director, Technical Information Service, November 19, 1965.)

Scope: A cumulated index to v.11, January-June, 1949, of Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports, and v.12, July, 1949-v.22, December, 1954, of Bibliography of Technical Reports.

Arrangement: The publication is to include several sections including a numerical listing of PB reports with bibliographic reference to the publications indexed, correlation index from other report series designations to PB number, sources (corporate authorship) and keys to document series abbreviations.

