

machines, and processes. He points out, for example, the economies of micro-opaques, not generally understood by scholars, or even librarians. He provides specific addresses from which detailed information may be secured. The glossary and bibliographical essay (by Allen B. Veaner) are useful addenda, although the latter could be improved by better coverage of European literature. Charles F. Gosnell's concise essay on copyright as applied to document reproduction pulls together the vast body of material on this subject and, incidentally, is an effective contradiction to an equally large corpus of misinformation.

Of special interest to those who still care for the physical condition, form, size, and even feel and smell of a book is Mr. Hawken's concern for the effect of copying on the original. Photographers, circulation people, and rare book folk should study these sections diligently. Too often microphotography as well as full-size facsimile copying have been categorically condemned because of a careless operator, or a rare book librarian who permitted a book to be copied without giving specific handling instructions. The clear, sharp photographs and diagrams in this section are especially pertinent.

The one great deficiency of this work, or of any comparable one, is that it probably will be out-of-date within a year. The rapid changes in copying technology will make almost any book on this subject virtually obsolete soon after publication. The Library Technology Project might well consider a newsletter adjusted to style and organization of the *Copying Methods Manual*. If it is cumulative and well indexed, it could be a valuable interim reference tool between editions of Hawken.—*Lawrence S. Thompson, University of Kentucky.*

Diffusion of Abstracting and Indexing Services for Government-Sponsored Research. By Irving M. Klempner. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1968. 319p. (67-12065).

To most librarians scientific and technical reports are a monstrous nuisance: trouble-

some to locate, acquire, inventory, store, and use. The distribution of reports is haphazard, and the amount, kind, and quality of information in them is extremely varied. Nevertheless, the report has become a viable medium among the range of devices for recording and disseminating information on science. In the field of atomic energy, the distribution of AEC reports to depositories and the indexing of the reports in *Nuclear Science Abstracts* is considered sufficient dissemination to constitute publication, at least according to the editors of a few journals.

These same channel characteristics create problems for scientists and engineers. Scientific and technical reports are known to contain a considerable amount of useful information, not only for the primary purposes for which it has been developed, but also for other, perhaps disparate applications. The report channel obviously needs to have applied to it those elements of management (e.g. peer evaluation, announcement, and control of access by subject) that will allow the information in reports to pass economically into the hands of those who can extract value from it. Because the traditional indexing and abstracting services are oriented towards formally published information in journals and books, and tend to exclude the vast number of technical reports, the Federal government has assumed the task of announcing and providing intellectual access to information in reports. It does this through four published services, namely: *Nuclear Science Abstracts*, *U.S. Government Research and Development Reports*, *Scientific and Technical Aerospace Reports*, and *Technical Abstracts Bulletin*. These services were the objects of Dr. Klempner's attention in this study.

The important underlying assumptions in Dr. Klempner's research are "that the utilization of technical information can be accelerated and intensified through the purposeful exploitation of national documentation center abstracting and indexing services," and that "if imaginatively distributed and used, the services can, in effect, act as social instruments capable of pro-

moting national technological, economic and social goals." Without a doubt Dr. Klempner's findings support his hypotheses that the government's abstracting services are not being adequately utilized for the diffusion of results of government-sponsored research; that industries and institutions having no government contracts generally do not receive, and frequently are unfamiliar with these abstracting and indexing services; and that there is a high degree of correlation between the extent of receipt and use of these services within certain regions and industries and the degree of innovation and economic expansion within these regions and industries. While Dr. Klempner does not try to prove cause and effect, his findings support previously published evidence that technological innovation and progress in industry seem to center on firms which, among other things, are aware of and sensitive to channels and media for the communication of scientific information.

Dr. Klempner analyzed the patterns of distribution of the four services, as evidenced by their mailing lists. He obtained information on the use of the services through questionnaires addressed to samples of recipients and non-recipients of the services. His attention to detail in the design of his research method and his doggedness in the preparation of his samples should belie any lack of confidence one might have in his findings. Because this book is in the main the text of his doctoral dissertation, it is filled with both tabular and factual presentation of his data. As with all good doctoral projects it is limited to a highly specific topic. As a dissertation it unfortunately will probably not be widely read. Dr. Klempner's message is, however, vital and clear: librarians and information offices have an obligation to be active and ingenious in promoting the use of the tools of their trade, and the Federal government must take steps to change the distribution pattern of these very important announcement and retrieval services in order to gain full power from them as instruments for the transfer of technology in industry.—*Russell Shank, Smithsonian Institution.*

The Methodist Publishing House, Vol. I: From Its Beginnings to 1870. By James Penn Pilkington. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968. xv, 585p. \$7.50 (68-21894).

John Wesley's aggressive publishing program, which contributed substantially to the success of his religious movement in England, was imported with Methodism to the British American colonies in the 1760's on the assumption that it would play as important a role here. The assumption was valid, as this fully documented study shows, for the work of the Methodist Publishing House during its first one hundred years was crucial to the proselytical and evangelical programs of American Methodism. The story of the Methodist Publishing House contains examples of reverses as well as triumphs. The house was sometimes divided. Occasionally it suffered from poor management. Once or twice it seemed on the verge of collapse. Yet its overall history has been impressive. Its directors adapted themselves with enterprise and imagination to the changing times and to the developing needs of Methodism during a period in which it experienced spectacular growth. This work presents a history of which the Methodist Publishing House and the Methodist Church can be proud.

The author, a member of the staff of the Methodist Publishing House for over twenty years, has had complete access to its records, which must surely be numbered among the most extensive and complete of any well-established American publishing house. He has supplemented these records—which contain information upon a wide variety of topics ranging from printing and publishing practices and sales figures to reading interests and editorial policy—with material gleaned from other sources, including newspapers, periodicals, and private papers. Effectively selected illustrations add still more flavor to the author's close re-creation of the period. This study promises to be, with the eventual publication of the second volume which will continue with an account of the second hundred years, the most comprehensive history of any American publishing