

have managed to frustrate every attempt at fundamental change, turning graduate research education into a training ground for practice and directing research efforts toward management studies designed to increase the efficiency of an agency, the library, whose fundamental character is taken to be fixed as it has been handed down from the past.

Library schools suffer most strongly, for they were set on their way by that ultimate trade-school promoter, Melvil Dewey, but the schools' ills are only a reflection of the ills of librarianship itself. Until the profession is reformed, library schools will be able to do very little. Chicago was indeed a unique opportunity for a group of library school educators to chart a new course and, in the event, even that supremely independent institution was unable to stand against the practicing librarian who, as Pierce Butler said almost half a century ago, "is strangely uninterested in the theoretical aspects of his profession . . . [who] apparently stands alone in the simplicity of his pragmatism: a rationalization of each immediate technical process by itself seems to satisfy his intellectual interest" (*Introduction to Library Science*, p.xi, xii).

Houser and Schrader's effort at reform is probably doomed by its abrasiveness, its awkwardness, and its overstatement, but it bears the marks of deep conviction, and it makes points of considerable validity. Librarianship would be advanced if the entrenched forces that have frustrated every effort of this sort in the past were to listen carefully to the underlying message and respond to it. Although that outcome is unlikely, the book will at least have raised some stimulating questions. Everyone who has a serious interest in the profession should read it thoughtfully, with the tolerance for its defects that will permit hearing the message it seeks to convey.—W. L. Williamson, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*.

Griender, Ted. *Acquisitions: Where, What, and How*. A Guide to Orientation and Procedure for Students in Librarianship, Librarians, and Academic Faculty. Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science, no.22. Westport, Conn.:

Greenwood Press, 1978. 277p. \$18.95. LC 77-84762. ISBN 0-8371-9890-9. ISSN 0074-9243.

The lore of the acquisitions librarian comes to the fore. Ted Griender presents us with a picture of how to run a university library acquisitions department good. His display is based upon his experiences and the lore that has developed in libraries over the past half-century. Unlike Ford's *The Acquisition of Library Materials*, with its philosophical foundations and theory in the open, Griender shows the practical workings involved in daily operations of the university library's acquisitions department. His emphasis upon bureaucracy, which accomplishes the library's mission, distinguishes *Acquisition: Where, What, and How* from *Melcher on Acquisition*.

Griender's approach is to give general ideas about the nature of acquisitions and its various tasks and then to explain by example. The first part of the book is a description of the acquisition task and its location within the library structure, specifically within the technical services division; this is the "where" and "what" of acquisitions. Part two gets into specifics by way of a checking manual (roughly one-third of the book) and chapters on how to set up other important manuals and operations, nitty-gritty administrative procedures, and even "How to Choose a Job."

One is constantly aware of the experientially-based and nontheoretical nature of present-day acquisitions work. From the small chapter on job descriptions and salary considerations for clerical workers, we are struck with the value of experience vis-à-vis professional education: A senior library assistant with five or more years of experience should receive more salary than a neophyte M.L.S. Throughout the book Griender seemingly qualifies all of his statements about procedure by the profession's ubiquitous imprecision: "varies from library to library." For sure, details do vary from library to library; yet, and herein lies the value of Griender, those details serve an overarching goal: to acquire materials for the users of any given library.

The student librarian should find this text helpful in giving handles on procedures within the acquisitions operation, which

procedures receive only theoretical treatment by Ford. Indeed, Ford's work should be read prior to taking on Grieder because of its discussion of the various types and needs of libraries and of the ways to acquire the diverse types of library materials. Grieder provides a case study, as it were, of one library's operation, and thereby gives the student hands-on practice with acquisitions. The assumption of a university environment may create overly explicit reading but provides enough insight to the process of acquisitions for the sharp student to generalize for theory and then particularize to smaller operations.

The practicing librarian will find the work useful for review and perhaps restructuring forms, statistics gathering, and attitudes within his or her library. Because of Grieder's experience with faculty, the book comes off less than helpful for "academic faculty." The lore of the profession is replete with tales of faculty errors in ordering materials and in requesting materials for reserve; Grieder makes us abundantly aware of faculty weaknesses in these matters. I

question the public relations value of handing any faculty member this text.—*James E. Weaver, Whitworth College, Spokane, Washington.*

Information Work with Unpublished Reports. Part I, *Work in Large National Information Centres*, by A. H. Holloway, Elizabeth H. Ridler, Domenic A. Fucillo, and Marvin E. Wilson. Part II, *Work in Company-Based Information Units*, by B. Yates. A Grafton Book. Institute of Information Scientists, Monograph Series. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, in association with the Institute of Information Scientists, 1977. 302p. \$18.50. LC 76-43306. ISBN 0-89158-717-9.

The management of scientific and technical information poses special problems when the medium used is not conventional. Unlike journal articles and books, unpublished reports are not available to the public as a matter of right. This may be the reason why the book trade does not handle them. Their circulation is controlled by the originators to

The newest title on Faxon's reference team...

Index to Outdoor Sports, Games, and Activities

by Pearl Turner

Joining the Useful Reference Series of Library Books, this new title indexes nearly 500 publications and seven periodicals on outdoor sports and activities, from the most popular competitive team sports to the most exotic individual pastimes. From baseball to skin diving, soccer to kayaking, football to falconry — the Index to Sports provides quick complete access to information sources for



amateur athletes, armchair sports enthusiasts, and busy reference librarians. The Index includes rules, techniques, skills and equipment necessary for outdoor games and sports.

For information on the Index to Sports and other titles on Faxon's Useful Reference team, write for our Publications Catalog.

ISBN 0-87305-105-X 408 pp. \$18.00



F.W. FAXON COMPANY, INC.

Publishing Division

15 Southwest Park, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090