tion, the most useful of which are an annotated list of periodicals and one of organizations. The latter is especially valuable in that a short history of the organization is supplied along with details of its activities and publications. These appendixes are followed by a glossary and an extensive, annotated bibliography that is conveniently divided by chapter. In all, Swartzburg exhibits a familiarity with a wide range of archival, museum, and library literature.

I have only two criticisms of this volume. The first is that though Swartzburg generally avoids detailing specific preservation procedures, she does make some unusual exceptions. In the case of the matting of prints, for example, the detail provided seems unjustified in that other easily learned techniques are given only the briefest of descriptions. Second, the usefulness of the volume would have been enhanced by a more comprehensive index. These are, of course, minor quibbles. Swartzburg's work is indeed a valuable one and should be required reading for most

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practicing librarians and all library students.—Roy H. Tryon, The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia.

Chan, Lois Mai. Immroth's Guide to the Library of Congress Classification. 3d ed. Library Science Text Series. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1980. 402p. \$22.50. LC 80-16981. ISBN 0-87287-224-6. This a fine revision of Philip Immroth's work, Guide to the Library of Congress Classification, last published in 1971. Lois Mai Chan has updated this guide to reflect the revision and expansions in the Library of Congress classification schedules as well

as changes in Library of Congress policies

and practices.

The first four chapters have been reorganized and rewritten, and the effect on the reader is more positive. The introductory chapter covers the history of classification. systems used by the Library of Congress, and the purpose of the Library of Congress classification. Chapter 2, "Principles, Structure and Format," describes the notation, display, and general characteristics of the classification schedules and includes new material on the use of Library of Congress cataloging records and on the revisions and expansions in the classification schedules. Chapter 3 is a discussion of the Library of Congress call number notation and includes an excellent explanation and description of the uses of Cutter numbers in the Library of Congress classification schedules. Chapter 4 discusses the various tables used in the schedules-form, geographic, chronological, subject, and author. Chapter 5 is the class-by-class breakdown of the system. There are some new examples in addition to those used in earlier editions. All examples have been verified at the Library of Congress. Each of these chapters contains upto-date bibliographies.

The author has added a new chapter, "Classification of Special Types of Library Materials." Included in this chapter are explanations of Library of Congress classification usages for serial publications, monographic series, collected sets and collected works, abstracts, indexes, supplements, materials cataloged under corporate headings, juvenile materials, nonbook materials, microforms, incunabula, translations,

"bound-with" books, pictorial books, and

biography.

The appendix contains tables of general application throughout the Library of Congress classification schedules, Cutter numbers for individual biography, and tables used with individual classes. Finally, the index is very usable. Throughout this work past and present Library of Congress practices are explained in a clear and concise manner, which clarifies variations sometimes puzzling to the cataloger.

The format of the work is a great improvement over the earlier editions. The type is darker and headings and subheadings are in heavy type. The effect on the reader, at least this reader, is very positive.

For the reference librarian, Immroth's Guide to the Library of Congress Classification, third edition, is a very good reference tool and introduction to the classification system. For the practicing cataloger or classifier it is a reference tool and a source of information for new Library of Congress practice. For the library school professor and student it is an excellent teaching tool and textbook. - Barbara A. Gates, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

ABSTRACTS

The following abstracts are based on those prepared by the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources, School of Educa-

tion, Syracuse University.

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sources in Education.

Textbook Classification Scheme. A Report from the Educational Materials Review Center (EDMARC). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Office of Education, 1979. 27p. ED Special Report:

The Library Catalog: COM and Online Options

by Richard W. Boss/Deanna B. Marcum



Boss and Marcum discuss the advantages to be gained and pitfalls to be avoided when a library chooses a COM or online alternative to the traditional card or book catalog. The emphasis of this special report is on turnkey systems which can be purchased from commercial vendors. The report includes information on six COM catalog vendors and eleven probable vendors of online catalogs. Included also are four excellent appendices: Sample Specifications for a COM Catalog, Sample Specifications for an Integrated System. A Glossary of Terms, and a selected bibliography. In the September/October issue of Library Technology Reports, Volume 16 No. 5.-\$40.00

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