are less likely to have their graduate work subsequently published. Richardson discusses this phenomena but does not adequately explain it; perhaps further research would indeed have yielded some significant insights and allowed his analysis to become something other than a statement of the obvious.

In truth, this is not so much the sociology of research in government information as it is the sociology of library schools that either have a Ph.D. program or require a paper for the M.L.S. Most real research is the output of working librarians who write articles and books, and they are not discussed here at all. The title of the book does not indicate that it will discuss only a very small, specialized realm of research regarding government publications: theses and documents. It really ignores the education half of the subtitle, failing to talk about introductory documents courses in library schools and their role as initiators of later interest in and research on government publications. Excluding practitioners, it deals only with the publications of library school faculty, discussing them mainly in the context of their faculty adviser roles. In Chapter 3, "Influential Faculty Advisors," Richardson devotes a page to each of several individuals he calls "the top advisors in government publications." What can one say about a chapter like this that fails to mention either Peter Hernon or Charles Mc-Clure but devotes a page to the author

Certainly those teaching in library schools will find the analysis of student/ adviser relationships interesting (although they will probably not use the data, in Richardson's words, to "better understand the sociological context of their own work with students"). No doubt a potential Ph.D. student intending to write a dissertation dealing with government publications might wish to consult this book before choosing an institution. But otherwise one would be hard-pressed to find a potential audience for this type of study. It is doubtful that library administrators and department heads will use the quantitative data to "identify the strong schools and advisors who can provide them well-qualified candidates for government information positions," as Richardson envisions in his preface. This research is likely to be of interest only to those having a very strong interest in the history of theses and dissertations dealing with government publications. Even those who savor anything written about documents would be hard pressed not to admit that this is much ado about nothing.

But we really should not fault Richardson too much. Quantitative analyses are de rigueur these days, and there is strong pressure from within the scholarly community to include some form of elaborately formatted data in any work. Those working librarians not planning to return to library school and obtain a doctorate can always skip past the first third of the book and make use of the bibliography. Within its narrowly defined scope this compilation of research is exhaustive; it fills a long-standing need and is an important contribution to the professional literature of government publications.-Joel Zucker, Jerome Library, Bowling Green State

University, Ohio.

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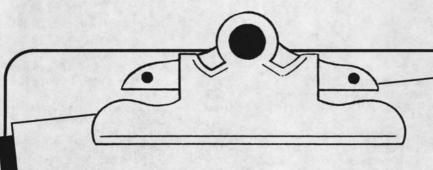
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