which it is not classified. However, this is clearly a minor criticism and a small subject index does help. Its positive advantage as an introduction to any aspect of archival and manuscript work is of immense value, and indeed this is clearly the purpose. How much easier it is now to be able to refer to a single volume instead of combing through *The American Archivist* and *Archivum*.

Some of the less common archival topics that librarians will find useful are chapters on: Cartographic and Related Records; Still Pictures and Other Pictorial Records; Motion Pictures and Film Archives; Sound Recordings; Microphotography and Other Copying Methods; Oral History; Automation and the Control of Archives and Manuscripts.

Librarians and archivists will benefit from this work. It is hoped that annual supplements and cumulations will follow so that maximum usefulness will be sustained. —*Richard C. Berner, University of Washington, Seattle.*

Book Catalogs. Maurice F. Tauber and Hilda Feinberg. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1971. 572p. $15.00.

This collection of twenty-five papers constitutes a record of what has been developing in the production and use of book catalogs since the publication of Kingery and Tauber's *Book Catalogs* in 1963. The papers cover the period 1964–1970; some papers were written specifically for this volume, while others are reprints of articles published in journals since 1963.

The primary emphasis of the papers is on the comparison of book catalogs to card catalogs, now that technological developments, particularly the computer, have made the production and updating of book catalogs feasible and economical. Coverage includes book catalogs as a substitute for or supplement to the card catalog, production costs, formats, production methods, and problems such as coding, computer filing, and updating techniques. Experiences with book catalogs by specific college and university libraries, medical libraries, county library systems, public libraries, school libraries, and mail order library services are recounted. A lengthy article by Hilda Feinberg, "Sample Book Catalogs and Their

Characteristics," presents sample pages from thirty-two catalogs and gives the characteristics (page size, format, arrangement, general description), method of production, frequency of issue, costs, and person(s) responsible for each catalog. The one historical article is John Cronin's "History of the National Union Catalog, Pre-1956 Imprints." A lengthy, well-chosen chronological bibliography is provided for the years 1964–1970; and the editors have appended ALA's recent book catalog directory, "Book Form Catalogs: A Listing Compiled from Questionnaires Submitted to the Book Catalogs Directory Subcommittee, ALA, 1968."

There is considerable overlap and duplication between papers in the collection, since many papers were not written with this volume in mind. The introduction provides an overview which ties the separate papers to the main theme; the articles cannot be read separately if the reader is to get an overview of developments in the last fifteen years. Taken as a whole, however, the collection does a good job of describing new developments in and future directions of the production and use of book catalogs. On the basis of the articles, the editors predict that "Recent technological advances in computer capabilities, along with decreasing computer costs, increase the likelihood that libraries will venture in the future towards increased computer-aided book catalog production. . . . The need for card catalogs for current records and for special listings will no doubt continue."

This volume is pertinent to any librarian interested in current library technology and its effects on bibliographic control and patron usage of catalogs, and to any librarian contemplating the use of book catalogs in his library. It is a necessity for any library school collection.—*Nancy L. Eaton, The University of Texas at Austin.*

Melcher on Acquisition. Daniel Melcher, with Margaret Saul. Chicago: American Library Association, 1971. ix, 169p. $8.00.

This book doesn't have a subtitle—and probably doesn't need one since the three-word title says it all. But even so, I am tempted to paraphrase one, something like "Plain Language from Truthful Dan." It is