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erences, and relevant appendixes. One appendix (page 400) does make an attempt to compare information and publishing activities in each country in chart form. The work does not include discussion of scientific and technical information dissemination.

Presenting the text thus in a broad and flexible format, Cherns has, for the most part, avoided making generalizations unsubstantiated in the text. Use of footnotes, however, is somewhat uneven. A reference to the United States, "public and congressional printing, because of its position on the fringe of the political area, was the subject of speculation, jobbery and scandal," appears undocumented, while the source of "an examination . . . [that] disclosed serious logistical and control deficiencies in the handling of orders" is duly noted.

Many of Cherns' conclusions found throughout the text and especially in part III should be further explored by librarians and government policy makers. "The right to know needs to be matched by the desire to inform" and "Useful information may be passive simply in the sense that nobody knows it is there or that there is a deliberate decision not to publish it" are among the many thoughtful observations that should give rise to additional study in each country surveyed.

This work is recommended for library schools and libraries dealing with foreign and international documentation and to students of public policy in the field of information generation and dissemination.—*Joan G. Kerschner, Nevada State Library, Carson City.*

Hu, Shu Chao. *The Development of the Chinese Collection in the library of Congress*. Westview Replica Edition. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Pr., 1979. 259p. \$20. LC 79-1741. ISBN 0-89158-552-4.

While the amount of literature on American library history has been mushrooming in recent years, a monographic study devoted to the historical development of the largest Chinese-language collection in the West, that at the Library of Congress, did not appear until the completion of this dissertation.

The history of the Library of Congress' Chinese collection began in 1869 with some

950 books, the result of an exchange program between the United States and China. Since then the collection has grown steadily; as of 1977 it held a total of approximately 430,000 volumes.

S. C. Hu, who is on the faculty at St. Francis College of Pennsylvania, has carefully examined the social, cultural, and political forces of Sino-American relations that led to the building and development of the collection, as well as the acquisitions policies that have evolved and been implemented and the personnel and financial sources involved. Of special interest to bibliophiles and scholars is the detailed account of the collection's holdings of Chinese local histories, collectanea, and rare books. Based largely upon annual reports and official documents, supplemented with secondary sources and personal interviews, the work provides, in historical perspective, a comprehensive, well-documented, and interesting description of a vernacular-language collection at the Library of Congress.

The primarily expository, rather than comparative, approach that the author has taken leaves the work open to the criticism of a general lack of critical evaluation of its subject. As mentioned above, the collections of Chinese local histories, collectanea, and rare books are noted as being strong; but it would have been more useful to indicate how these holdings compare with those in other libraries. What, for example, are the Library of Congress' strengths and weaknesses in terms of the holdings of similar material at the Harvard-Yenching Library of Harvard University and the Gest Oriental Library of Princeton University?

Hu stresses that "the Chinese collection in the Library of Congress contained 1,622 rare items as of 1942" (page 108). By *item* he means "title," not "volume." Given that the Gest Oriental Library has 24,024 volumes of Ming (1368-1644) editions, not including the pre-Ming publications, what is the significance of this figure for the number of the Chinese rare books the Library of Congress owns?

Elsewhere, Hu writes: "Speaking of the Ming imprints, mention should be made of the great *Yung-lo ta-tien*, of which the Library has 41 volumes, constituting more than 10% of its extant volumes" (page 111).

Although the *Yung-lo Encyclopedia* indeed belongs to the Ming period, it seems inaccurate to refer to this handwritten manuscript as an imprint.

In general, this volume should probably be recommended as supplemental reading material for students of world library history and Chinese studies. It surpasses the amount of information formerly found only in scattered articles and is definitely superior in quality and quantity compared with the Japanese counterpart, "A History of the Japanese Collection in the Library of Congress, 1874-1941," which was published in 1970 (*Senda Masso kyōju koki kinen toshokan shiryō ron shu* [Tenri, Japan], pages 281-327).—William S. Wong, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*.

International Federation of Film Archives. Cataloging Commission. *Film Cataloging*. New York: Burt Franklin, 1979. 174p. \$17.95. LC 78-2769. ISBN 0-89102-076-4.

Both experienced and novice film archivists, as well as film librarians, will welcome the International Federation of Film Archives' (FIAF) 1979 publication of their valuable manuscript on film cataloging. FIAF's Cataloging Commission views cataloging as a complex task involving the gathering and arranging of data and the creation of a system or systems around which the entire film archive revolves (page 3).

The guide's seven chapters and extensive appendixes offer a wide variety of methods that have been used successfully by film archives throughout the world to catalog their films. Topics covered span a broad range of subjects including film cataloging problems and their effects on the entire cataloging process, the strengths and weaknesses of cataloging systems and their application to archival operating conditions, the processes of actual cataloging, and determining which records are important enough to keep. Practical recommendations are given for each area.

The advisory, rather than prescriptive, method used by the guide enables readers to form their own opinions and adapt appropriate methods to their own institutions. In addition, procedures discussed are followed by examples from at least three FIAF libraries, suggesting the usefulness of each