

census reports, congressional hearings and committee prints, court cases, and serial set items. As might be expected, heavy and moderate users of the library are more likely to use documents than are limited users of the library. Hernon discovered that there is no difference in the use patterns of faculty in bachelor's, master's, or doctoral programs. Economists and political scientists are much more likely to make frequent use of documents than historians or sociologists. Regardless of discipline, federal publications are of greatest interest, followed by international and United Nations documents, state documents, foreign documents, and finally, local documents.

Faculty locate documents primarily through citations in the general literature, bibliographies in subject fields, mailing lists of government agencies, and contact with colleagues. Most faculty preferred informal methods of introducing students to documents and, interestingly, 28.3 percent of the respondents never mentioned documents to their students.

Two reasons are offered for not using documents. First, many nonusers believe government agencies publish little of value in their specific field. Second, many nonusers find the problems associated with identifying and accessing documents overshadow any potential value of the documents themselves.

Librarians have long debated the effect of various document classification schemes on document use, and the debate is likely to continue, as Hernon reports that "there is no statistically significant difference between frequency of use and the type of classification scheme employed" (page 103).

Hernon provides a unique and valuable insight into faculty use pattern of documents. Originally a dissertation, the research is thorough and well designed; however, the book could benefit from additional editing, as it still reads as if it were a dissertation. In addition, Hernon's definition of some categories is questionable. Heavy library use, for example, is defined as twenty-plus library visits per year, which seems somewhat low. Finally, one last caveat: "Frequency of faculty use of the library's documents collection is not a good indicator of the use by faculty members of

government publications in general" (page 88).

Faculty frequently obtain documents through agencies, colleagues, and other channels.

A welcome addition to the literature, *Use of Government Publications by Social Scientists* should be read by all documents librarians and librarians responsible for social science collections.—David R. McDonald, *Stanford University Libraries, Stanford California.*

Grolier, Eric de. *The Organization of Information Systems for Government and Public Administration.* Documentation, Libraries and Archives: Studies and Research, 8. Paris: UNESCO, 1979. 163p. \$8. ISBN 92-3-101595-8. (Available from: UNIPUB, 345 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10010.)

This UNESCO-funded study describes and compares information systems for government and public administration (ISGPAs) that are intended to aid decision makers. The scope of the work is international and is

OCLC
RLIN
UTLAS
WLN

**THE FOUR
BIBLIOGRAPHIC
UTILITIES:
A Comparison**

by Joseph R. Matthews

A 97-page report with 77 pages of appendices which include copies of the current contracts and price lists.

In *Library Technology Reports*
November/December 1979
Volume 15 Number 6

Single issue price \$40.00

Library Technology Reports
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611

based on the assumption that better governmental information systems will produce better decision making. The major point that is stressed throughout the work is "public authorities of developing countries should accord very high priority to planning and introducing modern information systems . . . which could help make their general approach to economic and social planning much more effective" (page 12). The purpose of the book, then, is to provide guidance for planners who are attempting to develop ISGPAs for their governments.

Of the four chapters in the book, the first and the third will have the least interest for information scientists and librarians in the United States. The first provides a historical background to the development of ISGPAs and the third describes a number of ISGPAs in various countries throughout the world. But the meat of the book is contained in chapter two, which describes the flow of information in an ISGPA, and chapter four, which suggests how to plan for the im-

plementation and development of an ISGPA.

Use of models and incorporation of sources throughout these two chapters add to their value. The author stresses that an ISGPA must have unique information characteristics depending on the specific nature of the country it is to serve. From time to time, the author lapses into more of a philosophical commentary rather than detailing specific guidelines or procedures that one might follow to initiate an ISGPA. Such is especially true in chapter four, where more detailed information in a step-by-step approach would assist the author to better accomplish the stated purpose of the book. However, the content in these two chapters, and especially the second, is a useful basic summary of information-processing characteristics and variables.

Unfortunately, a large portion of the information that is contained in the volume cannot be retrieved because (1) there is no subject, author, title index; (2) there is no

The F. W. Faxon Company, Inc.

*is pleased to announce
the acquisition of*

Stechert Macmillan, Inc.

effective March 17, 1980.



F.W. FAXON COMPANY, INC.

Library Magazine Subscription Agency

15 Southwest Park, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

Tel: 800-225-6055 (toll-free) ■ 617-329-3350 (collect in Mass. and Canada only)

bibliography; and (3) there is no index to acronyms—which are used profusely throughout the volume. The paradox is unavoidable: a book on information systems without adequate retrieval systems itself! The well-known time lag of UNESCO publishing limits the currentness of the work. Because the most current references are 1975 and some 1976, readers in 1980 can expect that significant changes have taken place during the interim.

Nonetheless, the author should be congratulated for producing the volume. It provides a useful overview and introduction to international ISGPAs, it provides a basis for the development of ISGPAs, and, perhaps most important, it gives evidence of the importance of ISGPAs for governmental purposes. As such, the volume fills a void in existing literature and should be a welcome addition by those who are interested in the background, status, and development of national and international ISGPAs.—*Charles R. McClure, University of Oklahoma, Norman.*

Bernhardt, Frances Simonsen. *Introduction to Library Technical Services*. New York: H. W. Wilson, 1979. 328p. \$15, U.S. and Canada; \$18, foreign. LC 79-12630. ISBN 0-8242-0637-1.

The scope of *Introduction to Library Technical Services*, as defined by Bernhardt in the preface, is broad and attempts not only to cover the "acquiring, cataloging, and processing of all types of library materials" but also to offer a "comprehensive presentation in a relevant manner to all libraries of all sizes and to technical services personnel at all levels."

This is a difficult task and one that I feel the author does not always accomplish. Instead, the resulting text runs the gamut from masterful to disappointing.

High points evolve when the author presents frank, demystifying statements, simple problem-solving approaches, and some very pertinent examples of technical services procedures. At certain times no prior knowledge is assumed, and the definitions take on the proportion of dissections, yielding up fresh, understandable statements about commonsense technical processes that are sometimes considered by the profession

to be veiled in mystery.

On the other hand, abbreviations and acronyms, with which our field abounds, are sometimes thrown in, leaving the neophyte unformed. Some chapters seemed to be completely introductory, as suggested by the title, and others go into such great detail that only a conditioned practitioner can assimilate the examples presented.

When the author chose to present the material in graphic rather than in prose format, the lack of homogeneity continued. Certain charts were clear and well thought out and brought together information from diverse sources that made understanding the concepts much easier. However, other diagrams were very complex and detracted from, rather than added to, the text.

Current technological advances were included but often appended to the practical discussion rather than as a part of it. It seems to me to be a perplexing time in which to write an introductory work on technical services. AACR 2 and the fast-moving pace of technology make it difficult to know what to include in depth and what to mention only in passing.

Bernhardt has presented a good, if somewhat uneven, mix of historical principles, basic practices and procedures, and currently evolving alternatives. I would recommend the text for use in a hands-on practicum-type course in technical services; the high points, of which there were many, will save the instructor much time—time that can be used to fill in some of the lower points.—*Dorothy Hagen Kettner, Fergus Falls Community College, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.*

Kennedy, James R., Jr. *Library Research Guide to Education: Illustrated Search Strategy and Sources*. Library Research Guides Series, no.3. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Pierian Press, 1979. 80p. \$8.50 (cloth), \$4.50 (paper). LC 79-88940. ISBN 0-87650-115-3 (cloth); 0-87650-116-1 (paper).

Like so many of Pierian Press' other publications, this one profits from the author's years of experience in reference work and library instruction. The book is more than just a good list of research materials in education, because it is "term paper topic-