

as Baker and Taylor's *LIBRIS*.

George Lowry's *A Searcher's Manual* (Shoe String, 1965), based on the Searching Unit of the Acquisitions Department of the Columbia University Libraries, is a similar manual that is less slanted toward one library's unique practices. In gaining its universality, it sacrifices some of its potential to spark ideas for new methods springing from specific practices. Also, because of its age, it does not include searching in the data bases of any of the computer networks such as OCLC's. It would be worth having, however, if one needs to make a study of existing manuals before developing one's own.

Another source for ideas is Ted Grieder's 1978 book *Acquisitions: Where, What, and How* (Greenwood Press). This book contains a useful chapter on compiling a search manual. However, it also was published before the author had much experience with network searching and, in addition, is intentionally more general than Lowry's manual.

Anyone wanting a good example of a detailed search manual for a large university library will find Cornell's to be a worthwhile purchase.—*Martha Willett, Indiana State University, Evansville.*

Cargill, Jennifer S., and Alley, Brian. *Practical Approval Plan Management*. Phoenix, Ariz.: Oryx, 1979. 95p. \$12.95. LC 79-23389. ISBN 0-912700-52-1.

After several years in hiding, articles and books on approval plans have reappeared, with an entire conference being devoted to the subject last fall. Jennifer Cargill, head of acquisitions at Miami University (Ohio) and Brian Alley, head of technical services at Miami, have joined this renaissance with a study directed to the librarian who needs guidance in actually establishing and operating approval plans. Since the two major books on acquisitions (Ford, *Acquisitions of Library Materials*; Grieder, *Acquisitions*) give little guidance in this area, a practical study is certainly a worthwhile goal. Unfortunately, the book falls short of its promise.

The slim volume (only eighty-eight pages, not including a very short bibliography and index) covers establishment of approval plans, selection of a dealer, profiling, processing of material received, bids and con-

tracts, and fiscal management. The latter two chapters, which are the strongest, provide some information not readily available. The majority of the book, however, gives only a general overview and fails to convey to the reader the complexity involved in operating a successful approval plan. The authors do not provide a critical analysis of approval plans but unwarrantably assume that such plans are the most efficient and economical way to obtain books. The study is based primarily on approval plan services offered by Blackwell North America and Baker and Taylor; these two dealers are often quoted and used uncritically as sources of information. This is a questionable practice, something akin to quoting OCLC to prove the advantages of networking. Variations of approval plans, such as those designed to obtain publications of certain presses or authors, are not mentioned, nor is there any information on foreign plans (except for a few comments about Blackwell's, England), a major oversight as such plans can't be built on the same model used to construct domestic plans. Also missing is any description of monitoring the plans to verify receipt of materials, or how to claim nonreceived items.

The simplistic view of approval plans and the lack of coverage of many important topics related to approval plans make it impossible to recommend this book. This is unfortunate, for not only is the topic important, but also the authors have demonstrated much better work in their quarterly publication, *IULC Technical Services Newsletter*.—*William Schenck, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.*

United States. Library of Congress. Processing Dept. *Library of Congress Cataloging Service, with a Comprehensive Subject Index*. Bulletins 1-125. Detroit: Gale, 1980. 2v. \$78. LC 79-25343. ISBN 0-8103-1103-8.

This handsomely bound two-volume set is a reprint of all *Cataloging Service* bulletins emanating from the Library of Congress, beginning with the first in June 1945 through Spring 1978. The bulletins, which reflect LC policy and practice in every area of monographic and serials cataloging, are an indispensable tool in every cataloging de-

partment seeking to adhere to an identifiable bibliographic standard. Their pages reflect also the revolutionary changes that have taken place in recent cataloging history, and as a dramatic example, "cf., if you will, the discussion of the "Preparation of rubber stamps . . . which will embody the individual subscriber's specifications for card orders" (CSB 3:3) with MARC tagging instructions (124:7-11 and 21-26). In between are such diverse topics as LC's interpretations of AACR and its two 1949 predecessors (*American Library Association Cataloging Rules for Author and Title Entries*, 2d ed., and *Rules for Descriptive Cataloging in the Library of Congress*), subject cataloging of variant editions of the same work, and, as one illustration of growing international cooperation in the standardization of bibliographic records and practice, the IFLA Working Group on Corporate Headings.

All of the foregoing is, of course, the work of LC's Processing Department; the editors at Gale have added only what they call a "comprehensive subject index." No annotations to the text of the bulletins have been attempted, although incorporating cancellations, changes, or corrections at point of occurrence (e.g., noting in 110:3 that the discussion on serials with generic titles is continued in 112:10) would have facilitated use and surely would have been easy to do. The criticism holds also for expansion of examples, such as those for free-floating subdivisions of subject headings in 114:9, originally published in 111:8. As it is, one must check all of the bulletins cited in the index under a particular subject to be sure that earlier information has not been superseded; the difference is a historical rather than a working document.

The only feature distinguishing this publication from a straight reprint, then, is its thirty-eight-page index, an index that has been preceded by those of Nancy B. Olson (no.1-125; Lake Crystal, Minn., c1979) and James H. Montgomery (no.79-121; Stillwater, Okla., 1979?). (Another by Joan B. Dible, Stanford, c1977, covers only no.108-23 and is not considered here.)

The Gale typeface is clearer and more readable than either Olson or Montgomery, which are printout and typescript respec-

tively. Olson's printout also dictates the repetition of a subject as often as it occurs in the bulletins, rather than neatly grouping the relevant bulletin numbers behind each once-listed subject, as Gale does. Whereas Olson has numerous listings under both the superseded term "Transliteration" and its successor "Romanization" and fails to connect them, and Montgomery uses the later term but fails to refer from the old, Gale does right by both, using the later term and referring from the old. All three indexes list additions and changes to specific cataloging rules under the rule number, a most welcome feature, and all three are generous with cross-references, Gale offering "more than three hundred."

Given that large number, however, there are some curious lacunae. There is no cross-reference from "Generic title," and one must scan the numerous entries under "Serial," "Serials," and "Series" to find "Series with Generic Titles," where a single citation (119:12-13) is given. In contrast, Olson lists five separate bulletins, and Montgomery, who cross-referenced to both monographic series and serials, lists four. Neither "Limited cataloging," important for libraries doing retrospective buying, nor "Superimposition," important for consistency of names, are listed either as entries or as cross-references (the latter subject also true of Montgomery), but turn up under "Cataloging Policies at LC." Only three other subjects join "Limited cataloging" and "Superimposition" as cataloging policies (cataloging memoranda, categorization of material, and priorities), although it could be argued that practically all of the bulletins and their myriad contents represent LC cataloging policy. Another very broad subject, "LC Printed Cards," which consumes almost three of the thirty-eight pages and is heavily subdivided, could usefully have had its subdivisions entered directly or at the very least consistently cross-referenced for easier access to the information.

Well, not to pick nits. The instant-gratification school of index users would argue for limitless cross-references, and its radical wing even for repetition of citations under various forms of the subject. The strict structuralist school prefers indexes heavily indented under "logical" entries,

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with every foray into its pages a test of seriousness of purpose. The Gale index fortunately falls somewhere in between, is undeniably good, and could be better; it is neither clearly superior nor demonstrably inferior to what is already available. Libraries that have not kept their earlier CSBs, or did not require a working knowledge of how and why LC did it so well until networking forced the issue, or for whatever reason need a complete run of the CSBs, compactly packaged, with a within-covers index, could hardly do better. Others will need to weigh carefully the outlay of seventy-eight big ones against living in annotated and dog-eared comfort with what they already have.—*Eleanor R. Payne, University of California, Davis.*

Kaser, David. *A Book for a Sixpence: The Circulating Library in America.* Beta Phi Mu Chapbook Number 14. Lexington, Kentucky: Beta Phi Mu, 1980. 194p. \$9. LC 79-4298. ISBN 0-910230-14-5.

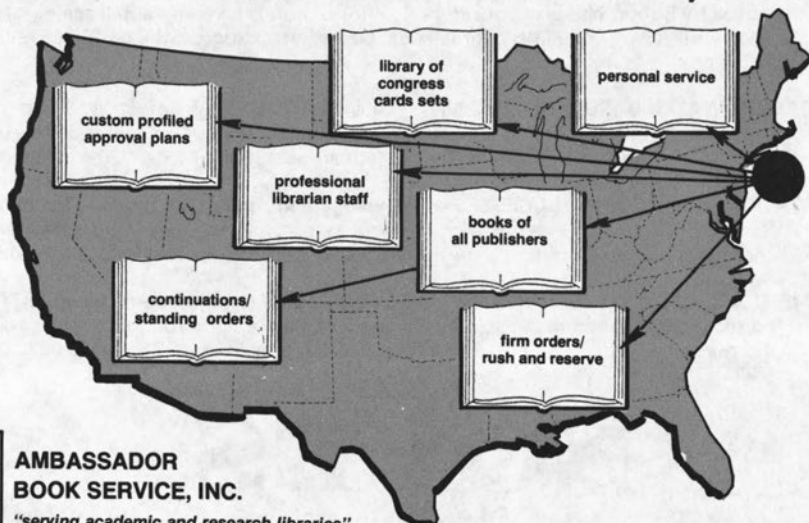
This publication gives American library history a full-dress counterpart to the his-

tory of circulating libraries in Great Britain presented in Devendra P. Varma's *The Evergreen Tree of Diabolical Knowledge* (Washington: Consortium Press, 1972). The very topic seems to inspire care in design, for both are especially pleasing examples of bookmaking.

The circulating library seems to have originated in America in 1762 when William Rind added a rental collection to his Annapolis bookstore. Patterned on agencies known in Britain and on the Continent for at least a half century and soon joined by others in America, Rind's circulating library was evidently a response to a widespread need rather than the consequence of a unique idea.

Interesting and important though it is to consider circulating libraries for themselves, the greater significance of such study is their meaning and contribution to the growth of libraries in general and the free public library in particular. That important agency was established as a consequence of two major developments, the acceptance of the principle of public support for education

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