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and library research. Although thought-provoking, there is little in the data gathered that support their analyses of the importance of these topics to collection development.

This is a well-organized work and should provide considerable insights to the thoughtful collection development librarian or library director. In addition it should be read by planning officers and administrative officials having to deal with library budgets in academic institutions.—Barbara A. Rice, *State Library Cultural Center, Albany, New York.*

European Americana: A Chronological Guide to Works Printed in Europe Relating to the Americas, 1493-1776, Volume I: 1493-1600. Ed. by John Alden with the assistance of Dennis C. Landis. New York: Readex, 1980. 467p. \$50. LC 80-51141. ISBN 0-918414-03-2.

Scholars have long relied on Charles Evans' *American Bibliography* and Joseph Sabin's *Bibliotheca Americana* for bibliographical and historical information about the Americas. In spite of the excellencies of these works, however, they have recognized limitations for research. The usefulness of Sabin's work for investigating a particular year or decade, for example, is virtually nil because of its dictionary arrangement by name and not by date. Evans' work, on the other hand, does have a chronological arrangement, but it also inconveniences the researcher by only recording imprints of the British North American continent.

These limitations of chronology and geography have now been bridged in *European Americana*. The name of the editor, John Alden, may well become as familiar as those of Sabin and Evans. And rightly so, for this first volume signals the appearance of an excellent, major reference work. Even the most casual examination of the book reveals several potentials for research. This volume, for example, covers the years from 1493 through 1600, with future volumes to include works published through 1776, thereby including all colonial history of the United States. The book also adds many "unknown" works about America for "of the works thus described, some 4300 in number, only a fourth appear already in 'Sabin'" (p.xvii). The implications for historical studies of this startling increase of "newly available" primary



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research materials is incalculable.

Alden has an acute understanding of what the scholar requires to carry out research. He not only includes the usual "author, title and subject index," he also anticipates future research by including a "geographical index of printers" and "booksellers & their publications" as well as an "alphabetical index of printers" and "booksellers & their geographical locations." These compilations are necessary for the presently evolving study of printing and publishing history commonly called *l'histoire du livre*.

Individual entries reflect the same historical tendency as the volume "does not purport to be a 'bibliography' but to the contrary a 'guide' for those seeking what a contemporary reader may have encountered at a given period of time" (p.xv). Full names are provided. Titles are abbreviated, yet they have not been made unintelligible, which is no easy task. Imprint information is limited to place, single publisher or printer, and date. Especially useful for the historian is the inclusion of book sizes, both the number of pages or leaves, and the physical format, as well as whether there are maps and illustrations. One small but highly useful contribu-

tion is in entry notation. Each entry is numbered (the first entry for each year begins with number 1) with both its sequential and its chronological number so that entry "564/16," for example, refers to Charles Estienne's *L'agriculture et maison rustique*, which is the sixteenth entry for the year 1564. The outstanding feature of the entries is the multitude of critical annotations describing the subject of books. This same Estienne book tells the reader that "included are refs to American plants."

Alden's historical focus does not mean that bibliographical features are slighted all that much as abundant bibliographical information is included. As with the historical annotations, there is one bibliographical feature that stands out: that is, a later edition of a work is identified as such and the date and place of the first edition are also noted. This information is complemented by a list of all editions of a particular work in the index.

All in all, *European Americana* promises to be one of the important reference books in the long tradition of outstanding historical and bibliographical scholarship on the Americas. It is a required book for all research libraries and scholars studying early

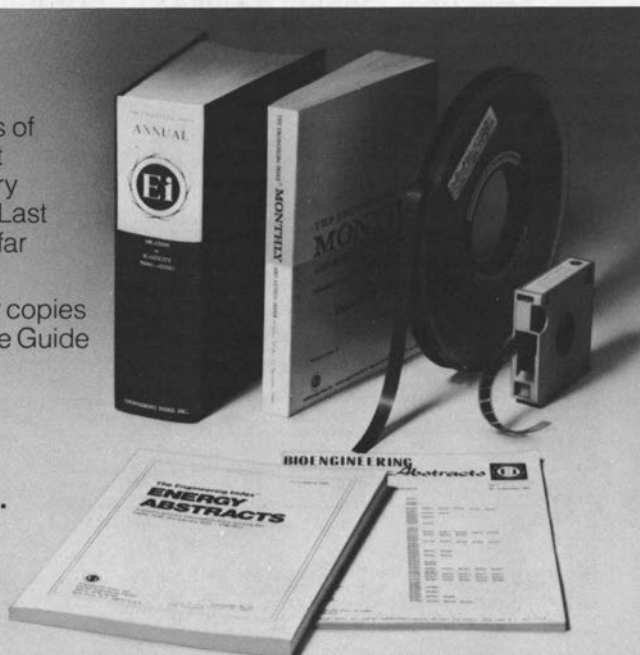
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American history.—Paul S. Koda, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*.

Henry, W. M. et al. *Online Searching: An Introduction*. London, Boston: Butterworth, 1980. 209p. \$31.95. LC 80-40242. ISBN 0-408-10696-4.

Directed to managers and would-be practitioners, this book provides an introduction to online searching strictly for bibliographic references. It reflects the four authors' British affiliations, describing both European as well as North American activities.

The text is almost evenly divided between ten chapters of narrative and eight appendixes. The chapters that provide background information about hardware, the structuring of files, the intellectual concepts of analyzing questions, and search strategy to retrieve references online are particularly good, giving concise accounts of details. Less space is devoted to discussion of related personnel issues surrounding online search services, although three chapters address such topics as, the role of the intermediary, management aspects, and education for searchers.

The first appendix provides a fairly detailed "check list for search preparation and search strategy" aimed primarily toward the search intermediary. Each of five other appendixes summarizes, in tabular format, details of the major search systems of Blaise, ESA-IRS, Infoline, Lockheed/DIALOG, and SDC/ORBIT. The last appendix is about Euronet, a European telecommunication network connecting numerous online service systems, including most described in the earlier appendixes. The book ends with an author and subject index.

In a textbook fashion, numbered subdivisions of chapters, a thorough index and selected citations at the conclusion of most chapters offer the reader easy reference to specific information as well as leads for further study. The text itself is well written, useful both for a novice to the subject and for an experienced searcher who seeks a review or clarification of a particular question. The occasionally used jargon is generally defined in comprehensible terms and descriptions of technical topics are understandable.

The authors repeatedly warn the reader to seek additional sources for more current data, and cite several sources that may be