tainty times when that risk is worth run-
ning.—John J. Lund, Duke University
Library.

Philadelphia Libraries and Their Hold-
ings; Data Compiled as Part of a Re-
port on Philadelphia Libraries to the
Carnegie Corporation of New York.
Bibliographical Planning Committee of
Philadelphia. University of Pennsyl-
vania Press, 1941. pi., 46p. 50¢.

The tools of library cooperation are of
two kinds, the line-and-reel variety and
the net. If you are after one book at a
time, the union catalog, Union List of
Serials, or catalog of a library or a collec-
tion may land it for you. If, on the other
hand, you seek all or much of the informa-
tion on some topic, the mesh of any de-
scription of library resources is likely to
seem too fine or too coarse. Moreover,
with this sort of purpose you are apt to
need the aid of someone skilled in tracking
through the ramifications of print to the
sources you require and consequently may
find that a printed guide to library re-
sources omits an essential factor of the
bibliographical process, the names of li-
brarians or experts who know how to
manipulate the literature in your field.
Descriptions of resources are a poor sub-
stitute for the organization of staff and
book stock resources of the nation as a
whole or of one of its subdivisions; but
they are nevertheless a substitute which, in
the hands of a resourceful librarian or a
pertinacious student, will in the end help
to connect print with the client.

The Bibliographical Planning Commit-
tee has compiled this list of special collec-
tions and fields of specialization primarily
as a guide for library planning, and has
published it as a reference tool for li-
brarians in Philadelphia and elsewhere.

Since the list is a summary of the com-
mittee's resources-information file (mainly
supplied by the libraries described), this
particular list is not a substitute for a
bibliographical center, since the commit-
tee is at present organizing one, but is
one of the center's tools in handy form.
As such, it gives librarians and scholars
outside Philadelphia a rapid but not hasty
survey of the Philadelphia library-stock
situation. The major portion of the
pamphlet contains abstracts of the de-
scriptions on file arranged by broad classes.
This arrangement, though not novel to
this type of publication as the introduction
claims, is obviously a good one for plan-
ning, since it shows gaps in subject fields
which are covered, thinly presumably, only
by general collections, and shows points of
centration at which the checking of bibliographies would indicate the need for
coordinated purchasing. The abstracts are
concise, seldom quantitative, occasionally
vague, but their references to published
inventories and catalogs, and the fact that
more information is on file, make the list
a useful tool for directing searchers in
Philadelphia, a useful addition to the scat-
tered resources-literature of the country at
large. This section is a portrait—and a
handsome one!—of Philadelphia library
resources.

The rest of the pamphlet consists of
recent (apparently 1939) book stock and
expenditure figures for 31 libraries and
departments; a chronology of Philadelphia
libraries to 1900; and a classified list by
subject specialization of libraries and de-
partments. A good deal of hard clerical
work has gone into the whole compilation,
and in some places excellent professional
work, such as the list of document collec-
tions; there are one or two oversights,
such as the omission of periodicals while
newspaper files and public documents are included, but this is not a piece of research—it is a survey of the Philadelphia book stock, and as such an interesting and provocative work for non-Philadelphians.

—John VanMaj, A.L.A. Fellow, Graduate Library School, University of Chicago.

Review Index; a Quarterly Guide to Professional Reviews for College and Reference Libraries. Edited by Louis Kaplan and Clarence S. Paine. Chicago, Follett Book Co., December 1940 to date. $3.50 per annum.

If, as Pope puts it, “Index learning turns no student pale, yet holds the eel of science by the tail” the editors of the Review Index have done their profession a service in providing another grip on those elusive appraisals of current books which librarians seek for their own advantage and that of their patrons.

It is no substitute for the Book Review Digest because it gives no excerpts from reviews nor does it offer any symbols to indicate merit or the lack of it. Furthermore, it is a straight author list with no entries under subject or title and a minimum number of cross references. It gives the author's name in secondary fullness, a brief title, publisher, date, price, and, as a rule, a reference to one book review, although occasionally a second or even a third is cited.

While the Book Review Digest selects reviews of books more or less in the public eye from approximately 80 periodicals and newspapers, the Review Index lists all of the reviews, with a very few exceptions, in about 60 journals of a scholarly kind, and covers nearly 400 more titles than the other index in a three months period. As might be expected, there is some overlapping. Of the items in a single column of the new index, 11 out of 31 titles were covered in the Book Review Digest, while of the 19 reviews of books in the September, 1940, issue of the Geographical Journal, 8 were included in both places. It seems fair to conclude that the Review Index will provide each year critical information on about 1500 more books than has been available in the past.

One is struck by the absence of the foreign reviews which are so greatly desired by research workers in certain fields. The Bibliographie der Rezensionen, which will continue to appear, one hopes, covers the foreign field quite comprehensively but scholars and library staff shy away from it. We like our information to come more easily. In any case, it is nonexistent for the period covered by the Review Index. Foreign reviews are needed now as never before since personal communications with Europe have almost ceased. During the latter part of 1940 few periodicals were received from continental Europe. They have begun to come again. Among important reviewing media seen during the past month have been: Beiblatt zur Anglia, Deutsche Rundschau, Zeitschrift für Französische Sprache und Literatur and Nordisk Tidskrift, to mention but a few of many. Incidentally, an important foreign language journal published in this hemisphere but omitted from the Review Index is Revista Iberoamericana which contains valuable signed reviews. Among English language periodicals there are several important ones which are missing but they will most probably be added as a demand for them arises.

While one misses any subject approach to material it is undoubtedly true, as the editors explain in the preface to the first