

Recent Publications

BOOK REVIEWS

Farber, Evan Ira. *Classified List of Periodicals for the College Library*. (Useful Reference Series, No. 99) 5th ed. Westwood, Massachusetts: F. W. Faxon Co., Inc. 1972. 17, 449p. \$14.00.

This is a completely revised and significantly expanded edition of a well established reference work. During the fifteen years since the appearance of the 4th edition the periodical publishing business has boomed, and this fact is reflected as well as the changes which have transpired in the field of higher education. However, only titles with publication dates prior to 1969 have been included.

This work, which first appeared in issues of the *Wilson Library Bulletin* from October 1931 to June 1932 as "Periodicals for College Libraries, Grouped according to Classification," was first published in book form in 1934. Begun by Guy R. Lyle and Virginia Trumper, it has been amplified in a number of ways by Evan Ira Farber who has worked as chief of the Serials and Binding Division in the Emory University library; as a reference librarian; taught courses on periodicals; and is presently librarian, Earlham College, Lilly Library. The appearance of this new edition attests to the need for constant updating and expansion of the information it provides.

In his preface Mr. Farber writes "The purpose of the present edition, like the earlier ones, is to provide an effective aid in selecting journals for: (1) supplying reading collateral to student's courses; (2) keeping the faculty informed of developments in their fields; (3) affording good general and recreational reading; (4) providing in some measure for the research needs of advanced students and faculty."

The range of titles covered extends from the official voice of academe, the *AAUP*

Bulletin, to *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Culture*. The entries include brief title with the subtitle included in the annotation; the beginning date, frequency, place of publication and price. In addition, there is indicated the services in which the journal is indexed and the Library of Congress card number. The usefulness of this listing would have been increased had the complete address of the magazine's publisher been cited.

Annotations in this 5th edition have been broadened to include additional historical information about each periodical. The content and special features of a publication are also described in more detail. Basically, the annotations are clear and concise. The periodical is described and evaluated in terms of its importance to a four-year liberal arts college library serving a student enrollment under 2,000. An asterisk precedes entries for 367 titles to indicate that they are recommended as "first purchases"; the previous edition recommended only 197. The compiler admits that personal taste and/or prejudice sometimes becomes a factor in the selection or rejection of a title. Reference is made to 1,048 titles, of which 939 are annotated; the previous edition carried 601 titles, of which 544 were annotated. To accommodate these additional titles, the 5th edition is three times as large as its predecessor.

The author points out the difficulty of assigning absolute classification because of development and growth of interdisciplinary studies during the past decade or so. This has been handled in a practical manner by placing the periodical under the subject which the author feels is most important and citing the title under other pertinent subjects with a *see* reference to the main entry. The key to this compilation is the "Title Index to the Classified List" which provides easy access to the many titles listed under more than one subject classification.

A number of changes in classification have taken place in this edition, with heavy emphasis on a new listing, "Area Studies." This classification includes 62 entries, which is exceeded only by 78 titles under "Education" and 108 under "General." "Area Studies" is subdivided into eight categories: General, Asia, East Asia, South and Southeast Asia, Africa, Middle East, Latin America, Soviet Union and East Europe. Another revision in classification puts "German" and "Romance Languages" under the heading "Modern Languages" to allow for the inclusion of "Russian." Reflecting the greatly increased interest in films and film-making, journals on these subjects have been combined with other performing arts under the heading, "Music, Drama, Film, Dance." This is an improvement over lumping them into the "General" category which was done previously. However, the "General" category includes "Journalism," and the expansion in the area of communications might well warrant a separate entry for this subject in future editions.

This volume is an important one in the field of periodical selection for small liberal arts college libraries. The recommendations and selection information it contains have been distilled from earlier editions, the personal experience of the author, examination of lists of periodicals of various college libraries, faculty recommendations, and bibliographical literature pertaining to periodical publications. The "Bibliography" section in this compilation cites the major sources used including Bill Katz's *Magazines for Libraries* which with its cosmopolitan inclusion and candid critiques can be used as an important complement to Farber's work. The *Classified List of Periodicals for the College Library* is a useful reference work for selecting periodicals as long as the limits delineated in the preface are kept in mind.—William H. Huff, *University of Illinois Library, Serials Librarian, Urbana, Illinois.*

Hickey, Doralyn J. ***Problems in Organizing Library Collections.*** New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 1972. 206p. \$9.95.

The current trend towards realism in Li-

brary Science education, bridging the gap between the sterility of classroom theory and the fecundity of real-world situations, is skillfully illustrated in these case studies dealing with technical services. Each study presents a realistic and vivid focus on a different aspect of library practice. The impact of technical services on reader's services, staff relationships, the patron, and internal procedures are clearly defined by actual example. Each case study is followed by a series of comprehensive questions designed to stimulate discussion.

The cases span a range of topics, and are set in a variety of libraries: college, university, public, school, and special. Within each study, the author has included information about the library system in which the case is set. There is a recurrent emphasis on the human element and the personality traits of the people involved, with deep implications for management. Wit, empathy, and human insights are reflected in each of the cases, as well as a profound knowledge of the subject matter. Many of the studies emphasize the value of preplanning and analysis of all aspects of a system before altering or adding techniques.

The use of the case study as a teaching device continues to be debated. An obvious drawback is the inability of the inexperienced graduate student to discern the underlying issues in a problem such as a backlog in a cooperative processing center, inaccuracies surrounding implementation of a machine-readable serials catalog, or the complexities of relationships between interdependent library procedures. Nevertheless, these are matters of concern to the profession, and are often not satisfactorily resolved by the professionals involved. The student should be made aware of these complexities, and should begin to develop problem-solving techniques to test flexibility of judgment and breadth of solutions.

Some of the cases are of such a complexity as to presuppose a large body of technical information. There is a fund of compressed knowledge in statements such as "a volume could be pulled from the current shelves, checked, shelf-listed, and processed for shipment" and "subject cross-references can be reconstructed from the check marks we've put in the printed sub-