

stream of the information and communication network locally, regionally, and nationally. If it fails to overcome its isolation and provincialism, it will disappear and will be replaced by more viable and dynamic institutions. That thrust is achieved.—*John T. Eastlick, Graduate School of Librarianship, University of Denver, Colorado.*

✓ Wynkoop, Sally. *Subject Guide to Government Reference Books*. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1972. \$11.50.

✓ Wynkoop, Sally. *Government Reference Books, 70/71*. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1972. \$8.50.

The introduction states that *Subject Guide to Government Reference Books* is essentially a general orientation guide to the most important reference books published by the Government Printing Office and government agencies. Ms. Wynkoop has done an admirable job in choosing, listing, and annotating some 1,016 books and serials with reference value. The resulting compilation is a good introduction for the occasional user and provides an insight into the variety and scope of subjects covered in official publications.

The very qualities which go into making a good orientation guide limit the usefulness of such a guide for reference and research purposes. Obviously, the high degree of selectivity necessary to provide coverage for many subjects prevents comprehensive coverage of any particular subject. In order to list the most important government reference books, many of the most common also had to be included. The practicing reference or document librarian hardly needs another description of the *Statistical Abstract* or the *Yearbook of Agriculture*.

Each entry gives all essential bibliographic information and a descriptive annotation. The annotations are well done, particularly in giving data about previous editions, related volumes, etc. On the whole, the information is accurate, with a few minor errors which really do not affect the usability of the information.

The index in the back of the book is also geared for general purposes. It is made up of the subjects which appear in the table of contents, a title entry for each book or series included, and personal authors when

mentioned. The use of several descriptors for each entry would have done much to increase the value of the guide for reference purposes.

Government Reference Books 70/71 is the second in a biennial series which forms a record of the most important reference books published by the government during 1970 and 1971. Unlike the *Subject Guide* this listing is intended to be comprehensive. The format is essentially the same as in the *Subject Guide* and the 68/69 edition with the books arranged by subject. The arrangement of the subject headings has been somewhat changed, and while the new arrangement is useful in this volume, it is disconcerting if the three publications are being used as a set.

A great deal of repetition of titles is included in the one thousand-plus entries in this edition. In my opinion this is detrimental rather than helpful. In a biennial survey it is wasteful at best to include two entries for books published annually, four entries for books published semiannually, and in some cases five and six entries for the same title. There are also forty separate entries and annotations for Army Area Handbooks, each entry repeating essentially the same information with slight variations from country to country. One entry describing the series, plus a list of those handbooks published in 1970 and 1971 would have been sufficient.

For people having limited contact with documents, these biennial compilations will be a reminder of the on-going and tremendously worthwhile contribution of the government in the field of reference materials. For purposes of research, or as a helpful aid to documents librarians, this series has the same drawbacks as does the *Subject Guide*—an unsophisticated index, general rather than in-depth coverage, and a great deal of space devoted to what every documents librarian should know already or be able to find easily.—*Joyce Ball, Head, Reference Department, University of Nevada, Reno.*

✓ Weihs, Jean Riddle; Lewis, Shirley; and Macdonald, Janet. *Nonbook Materials, the Organization of Integrated Collections*. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Library Association, 1973. 107 p. \$6.50.