This volume is intended "to provide at least some guidance for map librarians" through "presenting a compilation of selected articles on seven specific subjects" as a "systematic and sequential description of map collection operation." There are forty-eight articles divided under the topics of: introduction to maps (four), the elements of maps (seven), map classification and use (seven), map bibliographies/acquisitions (eight), map processing and cataloging (eight), map storage and preservation (five), and map librarianship/map collections (nine). Two articles were written by the compiler. The volume also has an eighteen-page bibliography section arranged by chapter and an eight-page index. Forty-six authors are represented and include cartographers, geographers, and map librarians from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Australia. The articles represent thirteen serial publications: Association of American Geographers Annals (one), Association of Canadian Map Libraries Proceedings (two), Canadian Cartographer (three), Cartographic Journal (two), Geographical Magazine (two), International Yearbook of Cartography (two), Journal of Geography (five), Library Journal (two), Military Engineer (one), Photogrammetric Engineering (one), Society of University Cartographers Bulletin (one), Special Libraries (nine), and Special Libraries Association Geography and Map Division Bulletin (seventeen). The articles range in date of original publication from 1950 to 1972, with nine each from 1967 and 1970, five from 1969, four each from 1961 and 1966, three from 1972 and only two from before 1960. The compiler's preface is dated August 1973. Photographs, maps, diagrams, graphs, and charts which originally appeared with the articles have also been reprinted (successfully), and the articles themselves were retyped in a uniform format.

Hopefully, the foregoing analysis of the contents of the volume will give prospective purchasers something to evaluate the book in terms of possible use to themselves. The seven subjects chosen do provide some good basic readings in areas about which map librarians should be concerned. The articles seem to have been thoughtfully chosen and provide a variety of viewpoints. The fact that seventeen articles were drawn from the Special Libraries Association Geography and Map Division Bulletin indicates the importance of this serial as a professional journal. Five of the articles included which were reprinted from Special Libraries have also been reprinted previously (with one additional paper) by Special Libraries Association as Recent Practices in Map Libraries (1971), and were originally presented in June 1969 at a panel on "Problems of the Smaller Map Libraries." The list of additional references based on the subject of each chapter seems especially useful for furthering one's knowledge of particular areas of interest in the field. Because it is a collection of articles, this volume does provide some more advanced or more specialized material regarding map librarianship than the October 1973 issue of the Drexel Library Quarterly, which was devoted entirely to map librarianship on a beginning level. However, this issue costs only $3.00 while this volume is $20.00. It is too bad that publication was over a year and a half after the compiler's date of completion, according to his preface.

It is very difficult to criticize such a compilation as to choice of articles. Some articles are omitted, perhaps, because of lag times in publication, such as the previously mentioned Drexel Library Quarterly issue or the chapter on "Maps and Map Collections" (by Mary Calneder and this reviewer) included in the ACRL Publications in Librarianship no. 34, Nonprint Media in Academic Libraries (edited by Pearce S. Grove) which has recently been published (although the chapter was completed in September 1972). I do not wish to go further into comparisons of article choice. What seems most important is that this volume does gather together primarily recent articles relating to maps and map librarianship. It is a bit costly, but I recommend it to those students of map librarianship who have already read and digested the previously mentioned material. Make use of the bibliographies in the articles and those compiled by Mr. Draziowski. It is not a dead-end volume. The compiler appears to have achieved his previously quoted purpose.—Alberta Auringer Wood, Map Specialist, Detroit Public Library.


It was a pleasant surprise to all persons interested in the history of the American book when the first volume of this important work appeared in 1972 and its high quality was determined. It is even more surprising to see this second volume appear so soon after the first, and it is equally pleasant to note that it is of a quality commensurate with its forerunner. May the author be similarly successful in his projected third and final volume!

Make no mistake about it, this is a big book, probably exceeding 350,000 words of text in the one volume alone, plus extensive appended bibliographic paraphernalia. It is so big, in fact, as to raise a question as to just what readership the author is addressing. It is too extensive to serve as a textbook, and few readers are likely to sit down and read through its 800 full pages, despite the fact that it is very well written—even exciting in spots—and the typography and design are carefully chosen to facilitate its reading.

The projected trilogy will certainly serve as a reference set, as virtually all aspects of American publishing history are covered in a comprehensive and balanced manner. Since the text is arranged topically into chapters—except for one section which consists of anecdotes culled chronologically from PW—the reference user is heavily reliant upon the index. The index is very full, however, covering more than sixty pages, so it can be expected to serve this purpose admirably.

The volume consists primarily of a large number of extensive essays on different aspects of the American publishing scene from the Civil War to the end of World War I. There are accounts of marketing mechanisms; distribution problems; accounting practices; the economics of publishing, bookselling, and authorship; the rise of the literary agent; and the origins of the university press (Cornell, 1869). There are descriptions of music, textbook, and religious publishing; of the publication of children’s books and paperbacks; of labor disputes in the printing industry; of serialization of novels and attempts to control prices; of the development of modern copyright; and the sad and usually silly history of censorship. Of considerable reference value is the large number of cameos—three to ten pages in length—of the major publishing houses of the era. And there is a nostalgia trip for those who were reared on The Prisoner of Zenda, Alice of Old Vincennes, When Knighthood Was in Flower, and other books of that ilk.

The author has sought widely for material, with the files of PW, newspapers, and literary periodicals serving as his main primary sources. He has also exploited what monographic scholarship has been accomplished on the subject, although these sources are interlarded with the many, usually less reliable, house histories sponsored by the houses themselves. In a few cases, where nothing better was available, he has had to use wholly unreliable local, city, and county histories, but he has done so cautiously. Statements drawing upon these latter two kinds of sources especially will be subject to future correction. The volume is an excellent, comprehensive, well-researched, and nicely written account of a key period in the development of the American book.—David Kaser, Graduate Library School, Indiana University.


As the budgetary noose tightens, librarians are looking harder and harder for ways to realize greater cost efficiencies. Among the many solutions proposed is that capital outlay costs be deferred by transferring infrequently used materials to compact or regional storage areas. Though it was long felt that such weeding was a complex task to be done only by subject experts, it is now becoming clearer that the use criterion provides a simple and satisfactory way of identifying materials to be weeded. The theory upon which use-oriented weeding rests traces back to Bradford’s “law of scattering,” which was given mathematical shoring by Goffman and first applied to actual library weeding routines by Trueswell and Buckland.