can be employed. What the authors have done is establish a statistical model and accomplish one case study.

This book is recommended to the reader with the initiative, interest, background, and time to analyze the authors' methodology carefully. A major value of the work is that it does provide a description of a body of experience gained by individuals who have applied sampling-theory and computer technology to in-library book use and who maintain that the same theory and methodology can be applied to other library components. Long-term evaluation of the "could be" aspects lies in the future.—Robert E. Kemper, Director of Libraries, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona.


Six years after the initial publication of *A Guide to Research in American Library History* by Michael H. Harris, a second edition has been released. Acknowledging errors and omissions in the original volume, the availability of constructive critiques, and substantial new research, the author indicates that the purpose of the Guide remains the same—namely, to assess the extent and nature of research in the field, to discuss the framework and methodology of the library historian, to describe the works dealing with the published literature, and to provide a descriptive bibliography of master's theses and doctoral dissertations on American library history through 1973.

The overriding question that comes to mind is whether this work really is a "guide to research" or, in fact, an annotated bibliography of theses and dissertations in American library history. Moreover, one wonders whether this book could have been far more valuable if the author had concentrated on his bibliography by expanding it into a major work including other contributions in the field in addition to theses and dissertations.

Following the general outline of the earlier edition, Harris opens with three brief chapters on "The State of the Art," "Philosophy and Methodology for Research," and "A Guide to the Sources," all in the span of thirty-seven pages. Despite the inclusion of ninety-eight notes and twenty-two additional references, the author fails to do justice to his subject. Regrettably, the substantive issues appear less important than the running arguments concerning whether librarians are really interested in library history, the unfortunate decisions of many graduate library schools to drop the thesis requirement, and whether or not those who have written in the field are "serious library historians" (p.8).

Although the author frequently bids for our attention with references or quotes from Pierce Butler, Sidney Ditzion, Jesse Shera, and Haynes McMullen, he also subjects his readers to a number of tiresome and fatuous statements such as, "There are, however, a number of library schools still producing good master's research and American library history continues to be a popular topic" (p.4), and "Now, I do not presume to deny the sometime historian the right to study library history at his whim and fancy, nor do I hold any brief for those who argue that historical knowledge is a panacea for all our ills" (p.8-9). When the author states that "Jesse Shera recently issued a call . . . " (p.5) referring to a 1966 article (also contained verba in the 1968 edition, p.12), or that "Jesse Shera observed some time ago . . . " (p.3), referring to a 1973 publication (which one must search to discover is actually partially reprinted from an article originally published in 1945), the reader is left to wonder about the accuracy and integrity of what follows.

Under the heading of "methodology for research" the discussion of Vleeschauwer's philosophy and methodology is all too brief; Waples, Coldhor, Wynar, and others are mentioned, but the reader is not really told what they said or how they influenced the writing of library history.

Part II is by far the more valuable portion of this work. It expands the annotated bibliography of graduate research in American library history from 496 entries in the first edition to 653 by adding 48 doctoral dissertations and 109 master's theses. Moreover, the author has added 18 annotations that were missing for entries in the earlier
edition, plus 14 new items (notably rem­
edying the earlier omission of works by
Shores, Lowell, and others) that fall within
the scope of the 1968 volume. In contrast
with the first edition, sections within the
classified arrangement have been more
clearly set apart so that subject or geo­
graphical headings do not begin near the
bottom of the page, and phrase headings
have been included at the top of each page.

The introduction to part II indicates that
the author, title, school, date, pages, and
bibliography (if any) have been included
for each entry. Yet, the reader finds that
pagination has been omitted for some
eighty entries—most notably printed works.
The annotations are generally good, al­
though length and quality vary greatly. A
published doctoral dissertation on the New
York Public Library, for instance, is de­
scribed in eight lines whereas the following
entry for a seventy-six-page master’s thesis
on the Chemung County Library receives
fifteen lines.

J. P. Danton used to tell his graduate
students in preparing works for publication
that historical materials should be scruti­
nized and proofread at least twice, and
bibliographies no fewer than three times.
Unfortunately, the number of misspelled
names, incorrect dates, and errors involving
typography, pagination, reversed order, and
incorrect words is high. Thurber’s work on
libraries in the land-grant colleges (entry
number 242 in the first edition) has been
dropped. In the annotations for three en­
tries concerned with Ainsworth Rand Spof­
ford, it is variously reported that Spofford
‘... served as Librarian of Congress for
nearly half a century, 1864–1897” (actually
33 years), that Spofford had a “40 year
reign at the Library of Congress,” and that
Spofford “... served the Library of Con­
gress for 47 years (1861–1908), 33 of them
as Director.”

Both author and subject indexes have
been included. Again, unfortunately, errors
of omission, misspelling, incorrect order,
etc., may be found in the former. In the
subject index one is puzzled why the author
has omitted entries for Alabama, Denver,
Galveston, Hartford, Houston, etc., in the
gerographical names category; for the
Forbes Library, the University of Minne­
sota Library, the Newberry Library, and
the Redwood Library; and for William I.
Fletcher and Margaret Mann in the per­
nonal names category. Likewise, subject head­
ings for book catalogs, certification of li­
brarians, legislation for libraries, and philos­
ophy of librarianship, which appeared in
the first edition, have not been retained.

This volume will prove helpful for quick
references to theses and dissertations in
American library history. It is disappoint­
ing, however, as a guide to research in the
field.—Kenneth G. Peterson, Associate Li­
brarian, University of Virginia, Charlottes­
ville.

Morehead, Joe. Introduction to United
States Public Documents. (Library Sci­
ence Text Series) Littleton, Colo.: Li­
braries Unlimited, 1975. 289p. $10.00.
(LC 74-23628) (ISBN 0-87287-106-1)

Morehead’s introductory text to United
States government publications has chap­
ters on the Government Printing Office,
Superintendent of Documents, depository
library system, and the administration of
documents collections; brief treatment of
some general guides and indexes; and a list
and discussion of selected publications of
the presidency, Congress, and various de­
partments, agencies, and commissions. In­
cuded is a name/subject and title/series
index.

The first four chapters provide a good
overview of the production, organization,
and dissemination of public documents, the
role of the depository system, and general
guidelines for processing depository and
nondepository materials. However, only one
short chapter is given to the important
general bibliographic tools used in working
with documents. For example, Morehead
allots a scant eleven lines to the 1909
Checklist whereas Schmeckebier and Eastin
(Government Publications and Their Use,
1969) have four pages on this important
reference work. The author devotes approxi­
mately two-thirds of the book to selected
publications issued by the executive, legis­
lative, and judicial branches of government.
Why there is a need to enumerate the
seemingly infinite number of issuing offices
and their publications is unclear and the in­
evitable result is the inclusion of some rela­