

tively unimportant series (*Driver, All Hands, BNDD Bulletin*) and the exclusion of important publications (*American State Papers*, publications of the Joint Publications Research Service, annual report of the Congressional Research Service).

The authoritative monograph on government publications is Schmeckebier and Eastin, and for a detailed account of the daily operations of a documents collection Harleston and Stoffle, *Administration of Government Document Collections* (1974), is a good source. *Introduction to United States Public Documents* is a current, well-written volume which should prove useful as an elementary manual in graduate library programs and for those unfamiliar with the complex world of federal publications.—Alan Edward Schorr, *Government Publications and Map Librarian, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks*.

Vesenyi, Paul E. ***An Introduction to Periodical Bibliography***. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Pierian Pr., 1974. 382p. \$12.95. (LC 74-19777) (ISBN 0-87650-045-9)

The title aptly describes the contents of this reference book, for it is solely an introduction to bibliographies devoted to periodical literature throughout the world in all subject fields from their inception to the present. The coverage includes indexes, abstracts, union lists, directories, and translation services. The book is divided into two parts, one-third of which is text, while the remainder is an annotated list of periodical bibliographies. An index is provided for the first part and a subject guide for the second.

Before launching into a history of periodical bibliographies, the author defines a periodical, outlines its origins, and describes variations in citations and the types of bibliographies, along with their organization. The historical part of the text covers seventy-four pages in which indexes, abstracts, union lists, and directories are cited. It is divided into four chapters: from the beginning to the eighteenth century, nineteenth century, pre-World War II, and post-World War II. The separation of the twentieth century into two chapters has resulted in fragmenting the bibliographical history.

Many of the periodical bibliographies interrupted during the war years were resumed later, some in a slightly modified format. Yet they were still basically the same work, so the author, unable to make a clean division, has duplicated portions of the history in the later chapter. The final two chapters are devoted to standardization of periodicals and to translation centers.

A brief foreword introduces the alphabetically arranged bibliography section, which the author has deliberately weighted in favor of the social sciences and humanities. This arrangement has obvious advantages for the compiler, because the subject guide provided at the end of the volume requires no page references since the cited titles are in alphabetical sequence. A high percentage, if not all, of the European periodical bibliographies in this section appeared in an earlier work by Paul Vesenyi entitled *European Periodical Literature in the Social Sciences and the Humanities* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1969). The citations have been modified and the arrangement altered.

No global guidelines are provided with regard to selection policy; therefore, the omission of important periodical bibliographies, such as the *Index to New Zealand Periodicals*, and *Serials in Australian Libraries: Social Sciences and Humanities; A Union List*, must be regarded as an oversight. Western European and North American reference tools have received the greatest attention.

Throughout the text the author has indicated gaps in the bibliographical coverage of periodical literature that require filling. If he had concentrated on one of these areas or had devoted himself to the comprehensive coverage of a single type of periodical bibliography, such as indexes, the end product would have been a valuable reference tool. As it is, the work is far too sketchy to be of any real value in a reference collection. The author describes it as "a complementary tool in the study of reference services," but even in this role its merit is questionable since there are already several good introductions to reference sources that cover periodical as well as monograph bibliographies.—Judith Cannan, *Associate Librarian, Serials Department*.

ment, Cornell University Libraries, Ithaca, New York.

Fenichel, Carol, ed. **Changing Patterns in Information Retrieval. Tenth Annual National Information Retrieval Colloquium, May 3-4, 1973, Philadelphia Pennsylvania.** Washington: American Society for Information Science, 1974. 175p. \$15.00. (LC 66-29616) (ISBN 0-87715-106-7)

This collection of twenty presentations from a May 1973 conference has lost some of its potential value because of the aging of its material during the time it took to get out in printed form. It also suffers an unevenness in quality of the papers, as if there had been no formal technical refereeing and screening of the written papers for publication. Some of the papers are very good, and some should be an embarrassment to the corporate sponsors of the written proceedings. It is too bad the editor could not instead produce a collection of selected papers from the conference. There is no doubt that it was a good conference and that the participants had an information transfer experience that was effective for them, but this positive value does not come through in the printed proceedings, and it seems a waste to create a permanent archive record of some of the presentations made at this meeting. This is, of course, a problem with many other conference proceedings. The editor of these particular proceedings must have felt some of the same concerns, because the preface notes that "most who have attended the Colloquia agree that these meetings have something unique to offer—something that comes from the spontaneous interaction of the variety of people who attend. Previous editors have noted the difficulty of transmitting this atmosphere in the proceedings. I share their frustration."

There are many good papers in this collection, starting with Bob Taylor's keynote statement that provides a good transition from the 1960 to 1973 work, noting what is still important to consider. Don King and Vernon Palmour, researchers who have been personally involved in much of the more significant user study work done to date, provide an excellent commentary and

review of user behavior, primarily in the context of sci-tech information. They also suggest areas where more work needs to be done and are particularly concerned with the mechanisms for transmitting formal messages from authors to users. Some helpful followup points are provided in a brief note by Francis Wolek. Brown and Agrawala provide a brief but very useful report with empirical data on MEDLINE use. Based on a fifteen-day computer log of 4,300 sessions of MEDLINE system activity, data are reported on such points as use by time of day, distribution of user response time (i.e., user "think time"), distribution of system response time, and distribution of number of commands per session.

Deahl describes and contrasts user behavior, both in traditional referral process and in a modern urban setting using on-line reference tools, to work with low income residents. Katzer provides a good review of some of the remaining problems of retrieval systems.

Mary Stevens, as usual, does an excellent job of reviewing and summarizing the important points from the prior literature—in this case dealing with strategies for organizing and searching files of information. This is one of the best parts of this book and should be required reading for all information science students.

Louise Schultz provides a good review of data base production and use, primarily from the point of view of the abstracting and indexing services. Some practical comments are given regarding the use of support tools to aid query formulation process.

Bob Landau gives some helpful estimates of the extent of availability and use of on-line file searching and some estimates of operating costs for such services.

Lee Burchinal provides a good tutorial progress report of U.S. science information services, including the major computer-based search centers, alternatives to primary publication, data retrieval, and suggested new directions for NSF.

John Murdock presents a helpful state-of-the-art review of economic aspects of information. This includes price perception and sensitivity for individual and organizational purchasers; ten-year trends and projections; and changes in the nature and