

Dunkin, Paul S. *Bibliography: Tiger or Fat Cat?* Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1975. 120p. \$7.50. (LC 75-5634) (ISBN 0-208-01519-1)

Paul Dunkin's final book (unless there is a manuscript to be published posthumously) leaves us continuing evidence of his concern for bringing a degree of common sense to the often tortuous task of combining the esoterica stemming from the physical characteristics of a book with the usually more mundane record which declares that a book exists and is available for use.

Ranging through the spectrum separating the bibliographer and the cataloger, here is a relaxed observer commenting randomly on such diverse and familiar aspects of bibliography as cast-off copy, press figures, and skeleton forms—intermingled with doubts as to the wisdom of the *ISBD* and musings on what bibliographers will make of the new printing with computer and film.

A major portion of the slim volume consists of quotations from many of the bibliographers' "greats," assembled and juxtaposed to demonstrate discrepancies, inconsistencies, and contradictions among them which have piqued the author's interest; one can enjoy the sound of the quiet popping of pricked balloons as Dunkin comments on some of the hypotheses of bibliothecal Perry Masons which he feels are too feebly supported by fact.

Although Dunkin purports to be writing for the armchair bibliographer (even defining "justification" for the novice), this book will interest largely those with background in bibliography, and who in turn can add their comment to the reflections of the author—and who will argue with the author's contention that one of the most important uses of bibliography is "certainly in better cataloging."

Oh, yes: "Tiger or Fat Cat?" As Dunkin says, "Who cares?"—C. Donald Cook, *Faculty of Library Science, University of Toronto*.

Cook, Margaret G. *The New Library Key*. 3d ed. New York: H. W. Wilson Co., 1975. 264p. \$5.00. (LC 75-11754) (ISBN 0-8242-0541-3)

Downs, Robert B., and Keller, Clara D. *How to Do Library Research*. 2d ed. Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Pr., 1975. 298p. \$3.45 Paper. (LC 74-28301) (ISBN 0-252-00449-3; 0-252-00535-X pbk.)

The titles of these two resource guides for the serious and intelligent layman might better be exchanged: Margaret Cook's manual is, in fact, a sensibly explained "how to," while Downs and Keller's book describes more than twice as many reference "keys" (some fifteen hundred to Cook's seven hundred), but without placing them in a practical research context.

Both works are revisions. The previous edition of *The New Library Key* appeared in 1963 and can be traced back to 1928 when its predecessor, Zaidee Brown's *The Library Key* first came out. *How to Do Library Research*, by Robert B. Downs, assisted by Elizabeth C. Downs, was published originally in 1966. The current editions of both guides include new and revised material into 1974. Only Cook, however, mentions, but declines to evaluate, *Britannica 3* and considers the *Social Sciences Index* and *Humanities Index* as two separate Wilson publications. Although both books discuss *Dissertation Abstracts International*, neither notes the monumental *Comprehensive Dissertation Index*, published in 1973. A random sampling of entries indicates that both guides have been carefully revised with many new works and editions cited and obsolete ones deleted. Cook has increased the total number of entries by one-third from the second to the third edition; Downs and Keller have added nearly half again as many titles in chapters 1 through 12 as were in the earlier edition with more than twice as many pages now devoted to specialized subject reference books (chapter 13).

Margaret Cook views the library as a complex yet fathomable whole and the act of research as a logical process within that whole. The product of this attitude is a wide-ranging yet well-organized guide in the true sense of the word. She defines her audience in broad terms to include everyone from college freshmen to "individual adults who have not had previous opportunities to become acquainted with the ever-