

sity, 125 College Place, Syracuse, NY 13210.)

The need for expanded subject access to books has long been neglected in practice but not in the literature. Atherton concludes *Books Are for Use* with a quotation from Thoreau: "The book is the most treasured wealth of the world." This quote, she reminds us, is included in the mosaic decoration of the Library of Congress, and she asks: "Are we the bankers and brokers of that wealth or are we the misers?" We have been, and are, the misers.

On-line data bases have expanded the access to journal articles and similar materials. These data bases, however, rarely include expanded access to books. And books, however media-minded and journal-oriented we may have become, are still the core of our collections, account for a very large part of the expenditure of our resources, and are underused due to the limited access to their contents that is provided by the traditional catalog record.

The Subject Access Project added from thirty to thirty-five subject descriptors, derived from the contents and index terms and phrases in the book, to 1,979 MARC records, thus constructing the BOOKS data base. A number of free text-searching tests were then conducted. During these controlled search tests, the regular MARC data base retrieved 56 and the BOOKS data base retrieved 130 relevant items.

BOOKS searches resulted in fewer non-relevant items; the average precision of MARC searches was 35 percent and of BOOKS searches 46 percent. The average MARC search took eight minutes; the average BOOKS search took four minutes. And BOOKS provided access to some items that a MARC search would never have revealed.

The project successfully demonstrated that suitable information to augment the traditional record is already available in a high percentage of the books we catalog. The terms and phrases selected from contents pages and indexes did produce a useful, if not the most useful, vocabulary for on-line searching. The cost of selecting and inputting these additional descriptors is not prohibitive, nor is the cost of storage and retrieval. And, finally, the augmented records did provide greater, more specific, and

faster access to the books in the data base.

Again the need for expanded subject access has been demonstrated and significant research toward a viable means of expanded access completed. But who is going to follow it through? Atherton suggests "that some effort needs to be launched by a responsible organization if we are ever going to get off the dead center of poor subject access Either the Library of Congress, the National Library of Canada, the National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services, or the American Association of Publishers needs to review the present scene and begin to work towards improvements" (p.87-88).

Will *Books Are for Use* become another lost work, through poor subject access, on the dire need for expanded subject access? Will the responsible organization please stand up?—Joan K. Marshall, Brooklyn College.

Morehead, Joe. *Introduction to United States Public Documents*. Library Science Text Series. 2d ed. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1978. 377p. \$17.50 cloth U.S. and Canada, \$21 elsewhere; \$11.50 paper U.S. and Canada, \$13.50 elsewhere. LC 78-16866. ISBN 0-87287-186-X (cloth), 0-87287-190-8 (paper).

Continuing his record of scholarship and writing in his inimitable style, Morehead has refined and updated the excellent first edition. The purpose of the work remains the same: "To set forth an introductory account of public documents, their locus, diffusion, habitation and use . . . for library school students, professional librarians and the general user of government publications."

The new edition covers the following major categories: Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, depository library system, nondepository publications, selected general guides to federal publications, legislative branch materials, publications of the presidency, department and agency publications, publications of the judiciary, documents of independent and regulatory agencies, and reports of advisory committees and commissions. In addition, two appendixes cover special problems in documents librarianship and abbreviations,

acronyms, citations, and popular names used in the text. There are personal author, selected title/series, and subject indexes.

An improvement in the second edition is the elimination of the chapter on clerical procedures and record keeping, the details of which appeared out of place in the first edition. A discussion of technical reports, an important part of the literature with which all librarians must grapple, has been added to the work. Other new information includes GPO micropublishing, on-line retrieval systems, and changes in the *Monthly Catalog* since 1976.

In changing the concept for the chapter on department and agency publications in the second edition to emphasize categories of publications rather than individual publications, some sense of the wide diversity of departments and agencies and their publications, apparent in the first edition, has been lost. Departmental and agency publications comprise a large segment of the total output of the federal government, and some agencies have published significant titles over a long period of time, e.g., *Occupational Outlook Handbook* of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and *Uniform Crime Reports* of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For the latter overview, the first edition is still valid, but one must keep in mind that all units of government are subject to constant reorganization, and publications begin, change titles, and fade with regularity.

Appendix A, entitled "Special Problems in Documents Librarianship," identifies them as mapping and charting, census bureau information, computer-based bibliographic services, federal audiovisual information, and microforms. These may be problem areas to some librarians, but they are sources important to all librarians and might have merited chapter status.

This work is of especial value to library school students who can use it as a basic introductory text to United States government publications. General reference librarians will find the work a useful current reference tool. It is also a readable text for users of government publications in general.

Morehead's style is envied by some and criticized by others. And while those to whom the English language is not a primary language may have some difficulty with sen-

tences like "No theme, however fey, antic, arcane or ostensibly in apposite, remains far from the omniverous curiosity of government" (p.131), his style adds a light touch to the otherwise serious business of understanding and servicing federal government publications.

As Morehead points out in his introduction, the emphasis of the work is on current activities. For historical information excellent sources are Laurence F. Schmeckebeier and Roy B. Eastin's *Government Publications and their Use*. (2d rev. ed.; Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, 1969) and Anne Morris Boyd and Rae Elizabeth Rips' *United States Government Publications* (New York: H. W. Wilson Co., 1949).—Yuri Nakata, *University of Illinois at Chicago Circle*.

Downey, James A. *US Federal Official Publications: The International Dimension*.

With foreword by Leroy C. Schwartzkopf. Guides to Official Publications, v.2. Elmsford, N.Y.: Pergamon Press, 1978. 352p. \$40. LC 77-30462. ISBN 0-08-021839-3.

This book is a revision of *U.S. Federal Official Publications: A Foreign Viewpoint* issued by the University of Sussex Library [Great Britain] in 1975. Downey's book is divided into two sections; the first describes the intricacies of bibliographic control and acquisition of federal publications and discusses many government and commercially produced reference sources. The second section lists the major legislative, executive, judicial, and independent agencies, with a brief history of the unit and description of publications, especially those relevant to librarians and researchers outside the United States. The second section comprises three-quarters of the book.

The information included in the first section is accurate and current, though much of it is gathered from numerous articles and monographs published in recent years. In some ways the first section parallels the early chapters of Morehead's *Introduction to United States Public Documents* (Libraries Unlimited, 1975; 2d ed., 1978), but Downey does not attempt to cover the Superintendent of Documents classification system, the administration of government