

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

documents collections, or the depository library system. However, Downey is perhaps a bit more comprehensive in his treatment of reference sources, the problem of non-GPO government publications, and the OP market.

The entries for each issuing agency in the second section, with the exceptions of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Commerce; and State, are very brief. The forty-page chapter on the Agency for International Development is a fine analysis of its publications. My primary criticism of this second section is that it merely includes a random group of federal publications that might be of interest to foreigners. This is basically the same criticism I have of Morehead's book. Downey does not provide a systematic or well-organized list; individual titles may be noted while some basic reference works from these agencies are omitted, making it very difficult to believe such a listing is of much value to anyone with more than a cursory interest in the publications of the federal government.

It is extremely difficult to be comprehen-

sive in listing government publications that would appeal to an international audience, but haphazard attempts do not seem the best method to follow. Given that I question the methodology employed, it should be pointed out nevertheless that Morehead's treatment of congressional and judicial materials is more comprehensive than Downey's, though when it comes to the executive agencies it is a tossup between the two books.

Government publications librarians who have access to works by Morehead, Schwartzkopf, O'Hara, and others will generally find little in this book to justify its exorbitant price.—Alan Edward Schorr, *University of Alaska, Juneau.*

Carpenter, Ray L., and Vasu, Ellen Storey. *Statistical Methods for Librarians.* Chicago: American Library Assn., 1978. 119p. \$12.50. LC 78-3476. ISBN 0-8389-0256-1.

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