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**BOOK REVIEWS**


R. R. Bowker has undertaken a major project in creating the *American Book Publishing Record Cumulative 1950–1977* by adding to the data base for its *Weekly Record* and *American Book Publishing Record* thousands of titles from MARC tapes and from the *National Union Catalog, 1950–1968*, to amass over 900,000 entries—practically all the titles published or distributed in the United States from 1950 to 1977.

Following the pattern of previous issues of the *American Book Publishing Record*, the first ten volumes are arranged by Dewey Decimal Classification with the sequence broken carefully between hundreds rather than by size of volumes. Social Sciences (300–399) and Applied Sciences (600–699) require two volumes, and unfortunately the breaks come in the middle of 340.0942 and 627 so that one would not know in which of the two volumes a desired entry would come.

Fiction and juvenile fiction, in separate alphabets by main entry, comprise volume 11. In volume 12 all books lacking Dewey classification, and hence unable to be listed in the first ten volumes, are arranged by main entry. Volume 13, the author index, and volume 14, the title index, list works by the first nine digits of their Dewey classification by *Fic or Juv,* or as v. 12 with the author's name in parentheses.

Volume 15 is the subject guide, an alphabetical listing of LC tracings (including proper names and uniform titles used as subjects) from volumes 1–12. Just the hefty title index of 2,225 pages in four-column format is quite an impressive project and its usefulness should be proportional to its size.

The set is printed on acid-free paper, Smythe-sewn, and sturdily bound. The print is very legible even though rather small type. Entries in four columns to the page are very clearly set up with the author's last name in all caps on the left and the Dewey class number on the right with plenty of space in between. Titles are in italics followed by subtitle, imprint, collation, series, notes, LC classification, LC card number, ISBN, price if given in the original ABPR record, and LC tracings. Any entry prepared by the Bowker staff when LC cataloging was unavailable is marked with an asterisk.

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assigned under previous editions of the Dewey Decimal Classification, an extensive "Table of Relocations of Dewey Decimal Classification Numbers" located in each volume of the set shows changes from the 15th to 16th, 16th to 17th, 17th to 18th editions with numbers no longer being used enclosed in brackets, and numbers that have been discontinued followed by an asterisk. This is very helpful and I don't know of other places where it is to be found. There is also a "Table of Obsolescent Dewey Classification Numbers." In the first ten volumes prime marks divide the Dewey numbers into logical breaks so that a shorter number may be assigned by a nonprofessional in a smaller library.

At first glance this set seemed like a very handy tool for any reader who wanted to find the author of a particular title, or other works of a favorite author, or more books on the same subject. It is—but that is a small part of its usefulness. It will be very valuable to librarians needing reliable LC cataloging and classification when they are reclassifying from Dewey to LC, for finding LC call numbers when OCLC records give only Dewey call numbers, for revising cataloging done under old editions of the Dewey Decimal Classification, verifying interlibrary loan requests, finding the contents of collections, or developing collections in various subjects. Libraries not owning The Combined Index to the Library of Congress Classification Schedules may find some of their questions regarding numbers for particular authors, classes of persons, geographic names, or all the class numbers relating to a single topic answered in this set.

Perhaps a certain amount of nit-picking is necessary in reviewing a set such as this. I found relatively few misprints, but even the computer became fatigued at the magnitude of the filing job and dumped problems in a clump at times. In the title index, numbers were quite well alphabetized except for a little clump running "1967, 1980, 1976, 1967, nineteen bishops" and then on accurately again. In volume 12 there were many
titles beginning "Report" or "Proceedings," but at the beginning of each were clumps of mystifying entries such as:

1. "Report
   [Amherst?] v. 29 cm. annual. Report year
   ends June 30. s8" with the tracing
   "I. Massachusetts. University. Library."

2. A similar report with the tracing
   "I. Howard University, Washington D.C.
   School of Law."

   Although I did not locate 1. in the NUC,
   I presume the tracing should have been the
   main entry as was the case with 2. which
   had no tracings in the NUC.

   Urbana, Ill. University of Illinois Agricul-
   tural Experiment Station [1957] 106p. I.
   Harwood Sawlog-Grading Symposium, In-
   dianapolis, 1957."

   The main entry in the 1958-82 NUC was
   "Hardwood Sawlog-Grading Symposium, In-
   dianapolis, 1957," and there were no trac-
   ings.

   "Who's who in golf" and "Who's who in
   Malaysia" fell between "Who, what, when
   in Kansas" and "Who, why, what."

   Acronyms and initialisms caused some
   problems. Acronyms were usually filed as
   though they were words. Initialisms were
   filed at the beginning of a letter when there
   were periods between (as A.L.A.) but were
   filed as words otherwise (ALA). U.S. had its
   variations: some were interfiled with us,
   some with United States, and some ap-
   peared at the beginning of the u's.

   Mr. was filed as mister except for five
   cases as mr. Mrs., on the other hand, was
   under mr except for five under Mistress.

   Of course, I take no notice of thousands of cor-
   rectly filed entries!

   Since there are no references in the au-
   thor index, in order to find all of an author's
   works, one would need to know both the
   author's real name and pseudonym if works
   were cataloged at different times under
   both. Often, however, the entry for one
   would give the other in the author state-
   ment, as for example, the case of "Moravia,
   Alberto" and "Pincherle, Alberto"—plus in
   this case the spurious variations of "Pin-
   chere" and "Pincherie" who also turn out to
   be "Moravia, Alberto." If one looked under
   a pseudonym when only the real name was
   used, nothing would be found.

   It was very easy to locate items in the fic-
   tion and unclassified volumes through the
   indexes, but one cannot deny the fact that
   using an up to nine-digit number to gain ac-
   cess to the first ten volumes is really cum-
   bersome. In the author index, there may
   be, for one author, a block of Dewey num-
   bers in paragraph form separated only by
   semicolons.

   For example, Julian May has eighty-five
   Dewey class numbers after his name. If one
   remembered the first one long enough to
   look it up in the proper volume, it would be
   necessary to find one's place again in the
   index paragraph each of the other eighty-
   four times unless one is efficient enough to
   write them all down on scrap paper and
   cross them out one at a time. A double-
   column listing of numbers under the name
   or at least several spaces between numbers
   would help. Also guide numbers at the tops
   of pages in classified volumes use only three
digits so there may be many pages headed
973–973, for example.

   At least in the title index, I thought,
   there would be only one class number for a
   title, as The Remarkable Henry Cabot
   Lodge 923.273. Entries for 923.273 are ar-
   ranged by author or main entry on pages
   943–957 of volume 10, but since I don't
   know the author I'll hope it was another
   Lodge. No such luck, so there's nothing to
   do but go through all the entries on four-
   teen four-column pages until I find The Re-
   markable Henry Cabot Lodge under
   "Zeiger, Henry A." If the author's name
   could be given in parentheses as in the fic-
   tion and unclassified volumes, the title
   would be easy to locate.

   The subject guide has no references, but
   all headings and subdivisions used are
   printed out individually. A page at the be-
   ginning of volume 15 showing how to use
   the guide explains the fact that some trac-
   ings appear in both abbreviated and full
   form. One may locate related material by
   using one heading and turning to its class
   number and browsing. The use of geo-
   graphic names may lead one to interesting
   local history items. The subdivision
   "Juvenile literature" will help librarians lo-
   cate books on many subjects suitable for
   younger readers.

   The 920s in volume 10 may help locate
biographies of people in various occupations and categories—scientists, journalists, baseball players, etc. Although I found no explanation of it, some entries in the other classified volumes had a B after class numbers (523.912B, 551.0924B) which also were biographies, but not all biographies were so marked. I found no explanation for two other symbols: a dagger before an 809 number and a small s after many 551.08 numbers.

There is a fantastic bibliographic base in this American Book Publishing Record Cumulative 1950–1977. I think it would be of greatest value to libraries converting from Dewey to LC or adding retrospective holdings to OCLC. It would be of tremendous value to many small public and school libraries who cannot afford many bibliographic tools, but they also could not afford this set unless it became available on microfiche.

It may be unfortunate for Bowker that Carrollton Press has recently announced a Cumulative Title Index to the Classified Collections of the Library of Congress, 1978. That publication of 132 hardcover volumes scheduled for completion in 1982 will contain in one alphabet six and one-half million titles. Less information will be given in each entry (title, author, LC call number, LC card number), for it is intended to be used with the National Union Catalog and Mansell by means of the LC card number and author, or the LC Shelflist in microform by means of the call number. Academic libraries and large public libraries who could afford this set ($11,432 prepublication price) would have access to many more titles covering a greater geographic area and a much longer period of time. Most libraries, I fear, will be waiting and hoping for a microfiche edition of one set or the other!—Ruth P. Burnett, State University of New York, College at Oneonta.


Proceedings volumes are typically a "mixed bag" of strong and weak papers more or less addressing a common theme. This example, the record of an Australian conference on library use instruction (termed "BI" for "bibliographic instruction" in this country and "formal reader education" in Australia) qualifies as a uniformly thoughtful and helpful contribution to the literature in this ever-expanding area. For one thing, the papers included give American readers a reassuring sense that everyone shares the same problems and concerns, from cost-effectiveness and objectives to staffing and evaluation. The ten published presentations touch on all of these issues and others as well.

Especially interesting are the details of a survey done by Chooi-hon Ho, which show "overwhelming evidence that libraries with Formal Reader Education programmes have a substantial increase in reference transactions." Ursula Newell cautions in her discussion of appropriate methodologies that there is often a difference between librarian and faculty concepts of what students need to know and that in selecting a means of instruction the entire educational system must be taken into account. David Foott's piece "Why Evaluate; What to Evaluate?" is likewise straightforward and insightful.

Several short case studies conclude the volume, giving a picture of current BI efforts in Australia. Although it is staple-bound with paper covers and lacks continuous pagination and an index, this item would be a worthwhile addition to any library science collection or to any BI reference shelf in an academic library.—Mary George, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.


This collection of fifteen papers is "meant to complement and bring up to date the 1974 volume, Educating the Library User,"

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