especially since the developers of Leeward Community College’s library instructional materials have systematically revised them to insure validity, reliability, and practicality. It is strongly recommended that academic librarians desiring to initiate or improve their own programs buy this publication and copy freely from the 150 pages of teaching and testing items contained herein. The sample materials can easily be adapted to fit local needs. As a bonus, the authors are willing to supply additional materials and information, as well as consultations, upon request.—Leonard Grundt, Nassau Community College, Garden City, New York.


The purpose of this text is “to provide a blueprint of the selection, acquisition, and arrangement of phonorecords and tapes in all types of libraries” (p.v). Essentially, the author seems to be concerned with current circulating materials, rather than archival and historical collections. In addition to collection development, there are sections on audio reproduction equipment, the care and preservation of sound recordings, arrangement and classification, and cataloging. The sections on collection development include chapters on general principles of selection, selection criteria, and an extremely valuable annotated list of periodicals to be used in the selection process. There is also a bibliography of books which the author thinks will be helpful in collection development (books on music appreciation, history, and guides to the repertory).

Chapter 7 is a list of recordings for a basic collection. This is to serve as “merely a foundation.” Local needs, inclinations, and capabilities will then determine the direction of the collection. The list of 1,250 items is recommended for large university and public libraries, but identifies appropriate items for medium-sized public and college libraries (625 items) and small public and school libraries (313 items). The list is classed by genre: blues, rhythm and blues, classical music—chamber works, keyboard works, string and woodwind works, symphonic works, and vocal works; country and western music; drama; folk music; jazz; musicals, movies, radio shows; opera, operetta, ballet, oratorio; and popular music. Specific recordings are recommended in all cases except the classical genres (where only titles of compositions are listed with no recommendations for performers).

A notable feature of Hoffmann's work is his generous regard for nonclassical forms. On the other hand, I expect that many librarians would like to have more help in selecting specific interpretations of classical music. Thus Richard Halsey's book, Classical Music Recordings (Chicago: American Library Assn., 1976), is still indispensable. Nor have other basic sources been made obsolescent—see, for example, the series of discographies by Nancy and Dean Tudor, American Popular Music on Elpee [sic] (Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1979—).

One could certainly take issue with some of Hoffmann's predilections (e.g., his suggestion that library collections should mirror public tastes, the lack of coverage of certain areas of the repertory). But these issues are subjective, and, all things considered, this is a most useful contribution to the library literature.—Gordon Stevenson, State University of New York at Albany.


During the 1970s the Music Library Association (MLA) issued a number of