

to other sources explaining additional types of media cataloging. A bibliography of readings or additional sources is not provided.

A most valuable feature of this manual is the second appendix where the previously presented examples are shown in MARC tagged format. Few other tools provide this type of example and many catalogers will welcome this feature.

The book also contains an overview of problems in the cataloging, processing, and storage of nonbook materials, as well as a description of procedures in use at Mankato State University, where its author is located.

The manual will be most useful to the cataloger unfamiliar with media cataloging, the library just beginning to acquire media in many varied formats, and the student. The reader will find the work a good, basic introduction to media cataloging and the problems it may present. Library school professors should look closely at this title for possible adoption as a text for cataloging classes.—*Andrew Lisowski, George Washington University Library, Judith A. Sessions, Mt. Vernon College Library, Washington, D.C.*

McCrimmon, Barbara. *Power, Politics and Print: The Publication of the British Museum Catalogue, 1881-1900*. Hamden, Conn.: Shoe String/Linnet, 1981. 186p. \$17.50. LC 80-28124. ISBN 0-208-01874-3.

To any librarian who has been engaged in the organization and publication of a massive catalog, Barbara McCrimmon's *Power, Politics and Print* suggests striking historical parallels to his or her own past labor. To American librarians it will also be a revealing demonstration of the characteristically close-working relations between the highest levels of the government of the United Kingdom and the nation's principal cultural institutions, such as the British Museum and the British Library.

I had much to do with the publication of the *National Union Catalog: Pre-1956 Imprints* in this country and something to do with "GK 3," the general catalog of the British Museum Library (since 1972 a part of the newly formed British Library), published between 1959 and 1966. From the background of these experiences I have read this book with special appreciation for the clarity

of its presentation of the long history of the production of "GK 1," the first general catalog of that great library.

The author has described vividly the protracted task of publishing "GK 1," which was finally completed in 1900 after decades of struggle. Its 374 volumes containing several million entries comprised by far the most ambitious bibliographic publication ever attempted up to that time. Because it opened the holdings of one of the world's greatest research libraries to scholars everywhere, it was a monumental British contribution to the world of learning.

Though "the British literary public clamored for a printed catalogue of the British Museum library" through much of the nineteenth century, it was not until 1881 that actual printing commenced. This critical point in the story was the culmination of four decades of planning and of "frustration and contention, of small steady victories over inertia, and of a final triumph that came too late for celebration." Principal credit for the dogged persistence and occasional resort to subterfuge and artful stratagem—without which the enterprise could never have succeeded—goes to Sir Edward Bond, principal librarian (i.e., director) of the British Museum, and Richard Garnett, keeper of printed books and general editor of the catalog. Dr. McCrimmon describes their determined efforts in a fascinating tale.

One of the main attractions of *Power, Politics, and Print* is the skillful way the author places the drama of the catalog's evolution in the political and administrative context of the period. The parts played, for instance, by Gladstone and Disraeli, both long-time trustees of the museum, and repeatedly prime ministers and chancellors of the Exchequer, are admirably developed. Dr. McCrimmon makes a lively tale of the endless skirmishing among the librarians, between Edward Bond and the trustees, and between the trustees and treasury officials upon whom the museum depended for its financial support. Although all this happened a century ago, it will be engrossing reading for present-day librarians who work with faculties, university administrators, committees of all shapes and sizes, government officials, and other individuals of every variety.

This entertaining book is effectively written, refreshingly free of jargon, and uncom-

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A bibliographical guide by Robert B. Downs. 448p. 1982. (0-7201-1604-X). about \$62.

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monly well organized. Dr. McCrimmon has included a chronology extending from 1753 to 1979 that relates her story not only to serious political events, but also to its social environment by including such dates as the opening of *H. M. S. Pinafore* and Bond's introduction of electric light in the great reading room. *Power, Politics, and Print* is far more than the history of a catalog; it is an important account of the success of an intellectual enterprise of vast ramifications.—*Douglas W. Bryant, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Hubbard, William J. *Stack Management: A Practical Guide to Shelving and Maintaining a Collection.* Chicago: American Library Assn., 1981. 102p. \$7. LC 80-28468. ISBN 0-8389-0319-3.

*Stack Management* is a fine example of clear, concise writing and good organization, representing sound thinking and reasoned advice. It is an excellent guide for the new stack manager and a handy reference tool for the experienced librarian. In a quick consultation, one can discover that 86 percent full is considered maximum stack capacity, learn the advantages and disadvantages of several types of compact shelving, and determine how best to shelve kits and games.

Hubbard has revised an earlier work by W. H. Jesse called *Shelf Work in Libraries* (1952), and this new edition reflects and stresses the current concern with access and availability of collections. Other contemporary issues such as problems of security and the use of detection systems, online circulation systems, and the increasing need for remote storage facilities are addressed at appropriate points in the new text. There are two minor points which I would draw attention to regarding the revision, however: one is the occasional use of the term "shelf worker" instead of the more current "shelver" or even "stack attendant" or "stacker"; and the second is a lack of any mention of physical access for the handicapped user and how that affects stack aisles and stack placement.

The book is divided into eight chapters and proceeds logically from the broadest aspect, collection management (shelf arrangement, open or closed stacks, and shelving of different types of materials) through successive chapters on more specific topics. These

topics are sorting and shelving routines, moving and shifting books (everything from how to plan space requirements to how to shelve), shelving types and arrangements (including lighting, book trucks and signs), and weeding, storing, and paging, with particular emphasis on the desirability of storage collections and how to plan and select for them. Hubbard's good sense and directness are particularly evident in this comment on off-site storage facilities: "Regardless of the frequency of trips, the schedule must be maintained if the service is to retain its credibility with patrons. Nothing destroys confidence in a library faster than broken promises through fluctuating schedules" (p.67). The remaining chapters deal with how to handle, clean, and repair books, missing books (how to search and inventory them), and finally some practical words on supervising stack personnel.

There is an appendix of basic information on using sampling to collect statistics on the quantity of work performed, book availability, and collection characteristics. The book is indexed. A comprehensive bibliography at the end, however, or all chapter references grouped at the conclusion of the individual chapters would have been preferable to the scattered footnotes throughout. *Stack Management*, is definitely useful and a worthwhile investment.—*Jean W. Farrington, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.*

Dessauer, John P. *Book Publishing: What It Is, What It Does.* 2d ed. New York and London: Bowker, 1981. 230p. \$23.95 cloth; \$13.95 paper. LC 81-10065. ISBN 0-8352-1325-0 cloth; 0-8352-1326-9 paper.

John P. Dessauer's book is a superb exposition of the workings of the American book publishing industry. Dessauer describes in successive chapters how books are created, manufactured, marketed, stored, and delivered. He also goes into some detail on the financing, planning, and management of book publishing enterprises.

Dessauer presently serves as chief statistician for the Book Industry Study Group (formed in 1976 as a research organization for the publishing community), and this second edition incorporates much information from the group. Although the book has the same structure as the previous edition (e.g.,