‘Interaction: The Work Women Do’ by Pamela M. Fishman, and ‘A New Approach to Understanding the Impact of Gender on the Legislative Process’ by Lyn Kathlene are not only relevant to the topic but particularly well selected.

Nielsen believes that theoretical discussions are most meaningful when offered in conjunction with specific examples of their applications. Her presentation in this volume is structured accordingly, with the second group of readings, offering examples of theory applied to specific areas of inquiry.

In part two, the article that illustrates the utilization of feminist literary criticism and anthropological fieldwork is a noteworthy example of the integration of empirical criteria and the hermeneutic and emancipatory themes of feminist research. Anna L. Tsing in her ‘The Vision of a Woman Shaman’ gives an account of how Induan Hiling, a Meratus woman, becomes recognized in her own society for her shamanistic powers, powers usually attributed to men. Evolving with this recognition is the gradual transformation of the society itself as Induan Hiling creates new forms of rituals, songs, and expressions. Tsing is able to draw from her participant/observer fieldwork, her interpretive analysis of events and traditions, and the expansive attributes of feminist research. The reader understands clearly the sources of information and the contributions of various techniques.

Other authors selected for inclusion are: Marcia Westkott, Judith A. Cook, Mary Margaret Fonow, Kathryn Anderson, Susan Armitage, Dana Jane, Judith Wittner, Sherna Berger Gluck, and Myra Marx Ferree. The editor has coupled her excellent essay on the strengths of feminist research with an outstanding group of articles, thereby creating a valuable contribution to the literature of research methodology.—Patricia A. Wand, The American University, Washington, D.C.

Magrill, Rose Mary and John Corbin. Acquisitions Management and Collection Development in Libraries. 2d ed. Chicago:
A pressing need to enrich educational resources and opportunities for acquisitions librarians and students with an interest in this area has been a major theme in the literature over several decades. Earlier editions of this book were written as a partial response to this need. The publication of Stephen Ford’s *The Acquisition of Library Materials* (1973) resulted from a 1969 recommendation of a joint committee of the ALA RTSD and Library Education divisions. Ford’s book and *Melcher on Acquisitions* (1971) were both intended to supersede Gertrude Wulfe Koetter’s *Acquisition Work: Processes Involved in Building Library Collections* (1961), which reads more like a procedural manual than an overview of the subject.

In 1984 ALA published the first edition of the present volume as a major revision and update of Stephen Ford’s 1973 book (revised by Ford in 1978). Now we have a second edition with over fifty-five pages of new material, most in the three introductory chapters on collection development. Every chapter has been revised; the chapter on acquiring nonbook materials, for example, has been substantially enlarged to include important new material on electronic formats. Major developments in the automation of acquisitions—from microcomputer applications to integrated library systems—are also covered. The literature on acquisitions and collection development has grown substantially in the past five years, and the selective bibliographies concluding each chapter cite many of the best recent works on each topic.

The intent of the book remains that of earlier editions, “an overview of the way in which library acquisitions programs are managed—what they try to accomplish and what methodologies are often used—and the processes through which the collection is designed, developed and evaluated.” Though not specified in this edition, the book’s intended audience presumably remains that identified by Ford in the 1973 edition—both library school students and practitioners in libraries.

Introductory chapters, including an overview, policies, and organization of collection development, are followed by chapters on acquisitions: organization, pre-order searching, the order process (single titles), vendor-based order plans, purchasing special types of materials, nonbook materials, serials, gifts and exchanges, and a concluding chapter on the evaluation of both collection development and acquisitions activities. Each chapter concludes with an excellent bibliography on the topics covered. Notes on each chapter and a general index conclude the book.

*Acquisitions Management and Collection Development in Libraries* needs to be read carefully lest the reader misunderstand what the book is and is not. Ford’s original version of this book was devoted solely to acquisitions, not collection development, and the book remains important for its thorough coverage of policies, procedures, and problems of acquisitions. Material on collection development has been added in subsequent editions to place acquisitions work in its proper context—collection development and management—not to change the essential focus of the book. Any student or practitioner working in acquisitions should also be conversant with the growing literature on collection development but must consult other works such as William Wortman’s *Collection Management; Background and Principles* (1989) for coverage of collection development topics.

This book also contains the unavoidable weaknesses of any text covering a particular function in many different types of libraries. Such a work simply cannot provide equal coverage of acquisitions in every type of library. The academic or public acquisitions librarian is, therefore, more likely to find this work useful than the librarian working in a school or special library, despite the frequent references to the latter library contexts.

As an overview of library acquisitions operations set in a generalized context of collection development and management,
the book remains a valuable standard work. It provides a thorough, coherent introduction to acquisitions for the novice and a convenient source of reference for the veteran. It would be a suitable textbook for a course on acquisitions, and the practitioner will find valuable suggestions of sources and procedures for acquiring materials in formats that are unfamiliar. This new edition should join its predecessors on the shelves of acquisitions departments and library school collections alike.—Eric Carpenter, Oberlin College Library, Oberlin, Ohio.


Accounts of the production and unmasking of forgeries have universal appeal—pitting the forger’s superior understanding of what must have existed against the critic’s belief that systematic comparison of data leads to truth. Most studies of forgery familiar to librarians deal with specific items (Mormon documents, the Vinland Map), perpetrators (Thomas Chatterton, T.J. Wise), types (facsimiles of newspaper issue or Lincoln letters), or historical periods. Studies of criticism—whether biblical, historical, literary, or textual—are categorized separately.

In this brief but tightly written essay, Anthony Grafton analyzes serious and skillful forgeries including textual matter produced in Western culture over the past 2,500 years, always with intent to deceive. Thousands are known: historical records of an heroic past, literary remains of a canonical nature, sacred texts offering spiritual authority, and legal documents legitimizing practices and possessions. In modern times, personal or professional gain has proved a temptation to creative and often prominent scholars, as they buttress an argument or fill in a gap. Concerns of the forger include not only the text’s linguistic and physical aspects but also a convincing explanation of its provenance.

From extensive reading and hundreds of examples familiar and unfamiliar, Grafton argues compellingly that criticism developed not through some abstract need for it but as a result of the stimulus provided by forgers. The critical method is not an invention of Renaissance humanism or nineteenth-century German scholarship but continues a tradition begun in classical Greece. It has increased in sophistication concomitantly with the challenge of better forgeries and has changed chiefly in the mass of data supporting its contentions. It tends to be less discriminating when dealing with texts that coincide with the critic’s assumptions and desires. “Forger and critic have been entangled through time like Laocoon and his serpents,” writes Grafton in his introduction; “the changing nature of their continuous struggle forms a central theme in the development of historical and philosophical scholarship” and has given us a richer sense of what the past was really like.

The author’s erudite and wide-ranging theory—originating as a public lecture at Princeton University where he is Professor of History—represents a logical extension of his ground-breaking publications in the history of classical scholarship and in Renaissance education. His exposition of “a fascinating but troubling feature of the Western tradition” gives perspective to the critical judgment bibliographic instruction librarians endeavor to instill and to the “spurious works” catalogers find pervasive in the PA schedule of the Library of Congress classification. More generally, Grafton’s lucid thought offers academic librarians a rare and welcome opportunity to step back and consider the authenticity and intellectual origins of some of the materials we care for, as well as the motivations behind the scholarship our efforts support.—Elizabeth Swaim, Wesleyan University Library, Middletown, Connecticut.


The collection of essays in this book derives from a conference of the same name.