Librarians are indebted to him for he is a real propagandist for the profession. He assumes that librarians like books and like to read. This attitude is contagious, for nearly everyone likes reminiscences from former librarians who guided parched and avid youth to succulent pasture. Librarians, booksellers, publishers, and patrons generally get this infection from these essays. The profession needs more who read and write as does Lawrence Powell.—Wyman W. Parker, Wesleyan University Library.

Reference Books


This supplement lists about 1,230 books and brings to approximately 8,930 the number of reference works or different editions of those works included in the seventh edition and its supplements. The third supplement lists mainly books published in the three years 1956 to 1958, but some publications of 1955 and some received before March 31, 1959, have been included. Special emphasis has been given to Russian and East European materials, reflecting the current interest in the Slavic world. In many sections, such as National Bibliography, Periodicals, Literature, and History, the emphasis on Russia, which seems to me justified, is particularly obvious.

Mudge-Winchell is a selective guide to reference books, and there is perhaps little point in cavilling at omissions or inclusions. It is nevertheless surprising to me that not a single business service is listed (although a discussion of these important reference works is included and reference made to Hausdorfer’s guide) and that none of the increasingly important Annual Review or Advances in or Progress in series in the natural and physical sciences is mentioned. Although coverage in science and technology and the social sciences has been notoriously weak in the Guide from its inception, yet one wonders why Nuclear Science Abstracts and Singer’s History of Technology were omitted. There are some strange omissions in other fields, for example, Wallace’s Dictionary of North American Authors Deceased before 1950 (1951) and Vance’s Illustration Index (1956). I can see no reason for excluding Schmieder’s Bibliographie des Musikschrifttums, a comprehensive and excellent bibliography in a field in which bibliographies are sparse. Why is the Checklist of Hearings prepared by the Library of Congress not included? The answers to these questions, I am sure, all go back to the same difficulty: there is no such thing as a complete bibliography or a book free from error. Most reference books of importance are included in Mudge-Winchell, and the Guide’s entries are remarkably accurate.

There are now three supplements to the seventh edition of Mudge-Winchell, and a fourth supplement is scheduled before a new eighth edition will be published. To find all the reference works listed in this invaluable guide, it is now necessary to consult four separate volumes; to purchase a set requires the outlay of $20.50 plus sales tax. The supplements already cost more than the original volume, and the complete set is priced beyond the reach of most beginning librarians or library school students. At least one library school has decided not to continue to require it as a text in reference courses because it is becoming too cumbersome to use and more expensive as its usefulness as a text decreases. The annotations in the new supplement are as welcome when present and as uneven in helpfulness and so mysteriously absent frequently as in the previous volumes of the seventh edition. If there is one valid criticism of this work as a guide, it is that there should be an annotation for every work listed and that the annotations should be fuller. Every reference class I have taught has complained about Mudge-Winchell as a textbook for this reason. A proper guide to reference books should be completely annotated, no matter what the cost.

Reference librarians will welcome this new supplement and will check their collections against it. If they have done a reasonably good job of current acquisition, they will...
find few titles in the supplement that they
do not already know about, for all the books
included are at least a year old, and many
of them were published more than three
years ago. It is also possible to find in the
new supplement new editions of reference
books that have already been superseded by
newer editions not mentioned in the supple-
ment. Take, for example, *Ulrich's Periodi-
cals Directory*, the eighth edition (1956) of
which is listed in this new supplement. A
new edition of Ulrich was published in 1959
and so, of course, was not included. The fact
is that the supplements to the Guide are not
published frequently enough to serve as use-
ful selection guides for reference books. The
articles "Selected Reference Books" by Miss
Winchell published twice a year in this jour-
nal do not completely solve this problem be-
cause many libraries do not subscribe to
CRL and many librarians are not aware of
the existence of the articles. Could there not
be a reference in the supplements to these
very helpful CRL lists? It seems to me that
reference books are an important enough
category of library materials so that an
annual cumulating supplement to the Mudge-
Winchell Guide should be produced to aid
reference librarians in their unending strug-
gle to keep their collections up-to-date. We
should not have to wait four years for as
important an aid to better library service as
this new supplement.—Fredric J. Mosher,
School of Librarianship, University of Cali-
ifornia, Berkeley.

These two mimeographed publications are
the beginning of a series of six presently pro-
jected under the sponsorship of the Division
of Community Junior Colleges of the Florida
State Department of Education and the Li-
brary School of Florida State University.
They are designed to provide convenient up-
to-date materials lists for Florida's rapidly
developing junior college libraries. Other
items in the series are to include books in
the fields of Science, English language and
Literature, History, and Biography and
Geography; and Audio-Visual Materials and
Equipment. The lists are being prepared
initially by graduate students in the Library
School at Florida State University, after
which each is circulated among junior col-
lege librarians and faculty members both in
Florida and beyond, and the final draft is
compiled on the basis of the pooled judg-
ment of the respondents.

At this distance there is no reason to quar-
rel with any of the titles included, nor any
basis to quibble with any titles which have
been excluded, for the lists are prepared
with the needs of Florida junior college cur-
ricula clearly in mind. To engage in a study
of these curricula in order properly to eval-
uate the titles on the list is clearly above and
beyond the call of duty for one brief review.
The titles are all good ones, as one would
expect in publications appearing under the
general editorship of Louis Shores and Sarah
Reed, and would certainly have to be con-
sidered for inclusion in any junior college
library anywhere.

If one could be sure that these lists would
be used only in this way, as a list of sugges-
tions for consideration by librarian and fac-
ulty in each junior college, their claim to
fame or at least existence would be secure.
However, one necessarily harbors the sus-
picion that they will be used not as buying
guides only, but as order lists, and that the
books and magazines will be added into
junior college libraries in Florida and else-
where without any consideration on the part
of the librarian and faculty as to their suit-
ability, and without either librarians or fac-
ulty having engaged in the intellectual ex-
ercise of determining whether or not these
books are indeed the ones which ought to be
in their particular library. As things now
stand, the student compilers of the lists have
gained much in the way of selection practice

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Materials for
Junior College Libraries

*Reference Books*, compiled by Louis Shores.
(Basic Materials for Florida Junior Col-
lege Libraries: Materials Bulletin 22CJC-
1). Tallahassee: Florida State Department

*Magazines*, compiled by Dorothy May Potteat
(Basic Materials for Florida Junior Col-
lege Libraries: Materials Bulletin 22CJC-
2). Tallahassee: Florida State Department

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