

## Book Reviews

**Primer for Agricultural Libraries.** By Dorothy Parker, Frank C. Hirst, Theodor P. Loosjes, and Gerrit Koster. Oxford: International Association of Agricultural Libraries and Documentalists, 1967. 72p.

The authors of this slender volume (two of whom would more properly be called compilers) have produced an admirable guide for secretaries and others who have had thrust upon them the task of organizing and operating an agricultural library service, without previous training or experience. The number of such individuals must be very large indeed, for agricultural research stations have multiplied rapidly these past two decades in the urgent quest for ways to produce enough food to support vastly increased numbers of people.

Dr. Parker's introductory chapter makes abundantly clear the widely diversified fields of science embraced in agricultural practice and research. It also underscores the tremendous challenge confronting agricultural librarians in assisting researchers to chart paths through the ever-thickening forest of the literature of agriculture and related sciences.

Her description of the ways in which agricultural scientists use publications, and of the role librarians can play in making that use fruitful and effective, will effectively broaden the horizons of persons coming untrained to the task. The practical aspects of building a collection of materials and of developing reference and other services are outlined in a helpful and stimulating way.

The specifics of library practice are dealt with in Frank Hirst's section of the Primer with great thoroughness and clarity. From suggestions concerning selection of materials and their acquisition, he moves on to measures designed to exploit book-and-journal information and create an awareness of current research developments. He treats also, in relatively simple terms, of classification, cataloging, and storage of

library materials. Rounding out this section is a somewhat less explicit, although quite helpful, consideration of reference and circulation functions in the small agricultural library.

The final section of the volume is an invaluable compilation of tools put together by Messrs. Loojes and Koster. Librarians of large as well as small agricultural libraries will do well to consult this list of bibliographical tools, abstracting journals and services, and broad annual reviews, because of its comprehensive coverage.

This edition is labeled "preliminary," for IAALD definitely plans to revise and expand this Primer. A good beginning has been made, one that admirably meets a pressing need.—*Fleming Bennett, University of Florida.*

**Copying Methods Manual.** By William R. Hawken. ("LTP Publications, no. 11" [Chicago: ALA 1966].) 375p. \$15. (66-25095).

In 1936 Robert C. Binkley published his now classic *Manual on Methods of Reproducing Research Materials*. Long out of date from a purely technical standpoint, Binkley's work is still valuable for its many fundamental insights into basic aspects of reprography (a silly word, but apparently well grafted into the vocabularies of European languages).

Mr. Hawken, one of the most respected technicians in the business, has written a literate and highly dependable work which covers the field comprehensively. It is in four major sections, *viz.*, factors affecting the characteristics of copies; the physical characteristics of research materials; processes; and methods and techniques. It is extensively illustrated, and even the novice in any branch of reprography will be able to use the work without difficulty in understanding terminology or technical explanations.

The author makes cautious evaluations and explanations about specific equipment,