

can be employed. What the authors have done is establish a statistical model and accomplish one case study.

This book is recommended to the reader with the initiative, interest, background, and time to analyze the authors' methodology carefully. A major value of the work is that it does provide a description of a body of experience gained by individuals who have applied sampling-theory and computer technology to in-library book use and who maintain that the same theory and methodology can be applied to other library components. Long-term evaluation of the "could be" aspects lies in the future.—*Robert E. Kemper, Director of Libraries, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona.*

**Harris, Michael H. *A Guide to Research in American Library History.*** 2d ed. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1974. 275p. \$9.00. (LC 74-17113) (ISBN 0-8108-0744-0)

Six years after the initial publication of *A Guide to Research in American Library History* by Michael H. Harris, a second edition has been released. Acknowledging errors and omissions in the original volume, the availability of constructive critiques, and substantial new research, the author indicates that the purpose of the *Guide* remains the same—namely, to assess the extent and nature of research in the field, to discuss the framework and methodology of the library historian, to describe the works dealing with the published literature, and to provide a descriptive bibliography of master's theses and doctoral dissertations on American library history through 1973.

The overriding question that comes to mind is whether this work really is "a guide to research" or, in fact, an annotated bibliography of theses and dissertations in American library history. Moreover, one wonders whether this book could have been far more valuable if the author had concentrated on his bibliography by expanding it into a major work including other contributions in the field in addition to theses and dissertations.

Following the general outline of the earlier edition, Harris opens with three brief chapters on "The State of the Art," "Philos-

ophy and Methodology for Research," and "A Guide to the Sources," all in the span of thirty-seven pages. Despite the inclusion of ninety-eight notes and twenty-two additional references, the author fails to do justice to his subject. Regrettably, the substantive issues appear less important than the running arguments concerning whether librarians are really interested in library history, the unfortunate decisions of many graduate library schools to drop the thesis requirement, and whether or not those who have written in the field are "serious library historians" (p.8).

Although the author frequently bids for our attention with references or quotes from Pierce Butler, Sidney Ditzion, Jesse Shera, and Haynes McMullen, he also subjects his readers to a number of tiresome and fatuous statements such as, "There are, however, a number of library schools still producing good master's research and American library history continues to be a popular topic" (p.4), and "Now, I do not presume to deny the sometime historian the right to study library history at his whim and fancy, nor do I hold any brief for those who argue that historical knowledge is a panacea for all our ills" (p.8-9). When the author states that "Jesse Shera recently issued a call . . ." (p.5) referring to a 1966 article (also contained verbatim in the 1968 edition, p.12), or that "Jesse Shera observed some time ago . . ." (p.3), referring to a 1973 publication (which one must search to discover is actually partially reprinted from an article originally published in 1945), the reader is left to wonder about the accuracy and integrity of what follows. Under the heading of "methodology for research" the discussion of Vleeschauwer's philosophy and methodology is all too brief; Waples, Goldhor, Wynar, and others are mentioned, but the reader is not really told what they said or how they influenced the writing of library history.

Part II is by far the more valuable portion of this work. It expands the annotated bibliography of graduate research in American library history from 496 entries in the first edition to 653 by adding 48 doctoral dissertations and 109 master's theses. Moreover, the author has added 18 annotations that were missing for entries in the earlier

dition, plus 14 new items (notably remedying the earlier omission of works by Shores, Lowell, and others) that fall within the scope of the 1968 volume. In contrast with the first edition, sections within the classified arrangement have been more clearly set apart so that subject or geographical headings do not begin near the bottom of the page, and phrase headings have been included at the top of each page.

The introduction to part II indicates that the author, title, school, date, pages, and bibliography (if any) have been included for each entry. Yet, the reader finds that pagination has been omitted for some eighty entries—most notably printed works. The annotations are generally good, although length and quality vary greatly. A published doctoral dissertation on the New York Public Library, for instance, is described in eight lines whereas the following entry for a seventy-six-page master's thesis on the Chemung County Library receives fifteen lines.

J. P. Danton used to tell his graduate students in preparing works for publication that historical materials should be scrutinized and proofread at least twice, and bibliographies no fewer than three times. Unfortunately, the number of misspelled names, incorrect dates, and errors involving typography, pagination, reversed order, and incorrect words is high. Thurber's work on libraries in the land-grant colleges (entry number 242 in the first edition) has been dropped. In the annotations for three entries concerned with Ainsworth Rand Spofford, it is variously reported that Spofford ". . . served as Librarian of Congress for nearly half a century, 1864-1897" (actually 33 years), that Spofford had a "40 year reign at the Library of Congress," and that Spofford ". . . served the Library of Congress for 47 years (1861-1908), 33 of them as Director."

Both author and subject indexes have been included. Again, unfortunately, errors of omission, misspelling, incorrect order, etc., may be found in the former. In the subject index one is puzzled why the author has omitted entries for Alabama, Denver, Galveston, Hartford, Houston, etc., in the geographical names category; for the Forbes Library, the University of Minne-

sota Library, the Newberry Library, and the Redwood Library; and for William I. Fletcher and Margaret Mann in the personal names category. Likewise, subject headings for book catalogs, certification of librarians, legislation for libraries, and philosophy of librarianship, which appeared in the first edition, have not been retained.

This volume will prove helpful for quick references to theses and dissertations in American library history. It is disappointing, however, as a guide to research in the field.—*Kenneth G. Peterson, Associate Librarian, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.*

**Morehead, Joe. *Introduction to United States Public Documents.*** (Library Science Text Series) Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1975. 289p. \$10.00. (LC 74-23628) (ISBN 0-87287-106-1)

Morehead's introductory text to United States government publications has chapters on the Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, depository library system, and the administration of documents collections; brief treatment of some general guides and indexes; and a list and discussion of selected publications of the presidency, Congress, and various departments, agencies, and commissions. Included is a name/subject and title/series index.

The first four chapters provide a good overview of the production, organization, and dissemination of public documents, the role of the depository system, and general guidelines for processing depository and nondepository materials. However, only one short chapter is given to the important general bibliographic tools used in working with documents. For example, Morehead allots a scant eleven lines to the 1909 *Checklist* whereas Schmeckebier and Eastin (*Government Publications and Their Use*, 1969) have four pages on this important reference work. The author devotes approximately two-thirds of the book to selected publications issued by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Why there is a need to enumerate the seemingly infinite number of issuing offices and their publications is unclear and the inevitable result is the inclusion of some rela-