acronyms, citations, and popular names used in the text. There are personal author, selected title/series, and subject indexes.

An improvement in the second edition is the elimination of the chapter on clerical procedures and record keeping, the details of which appeared out of place in the first edition. A discussion of technical reports, an important part of the literature with which all librarians must grapple, has been added to the work. Other new information includes GPO micropublishing, on-line retrieval systems, and changes in the Monthly Catalog since 1976.

In changing the concept for the chapter on department and agency publications in the second edition to emphasize categories of publications rather than individual publications, some sense of the wide diversity of departments and agencies and their publications, apparent in the first edition, has been lost. Departmental and agency publications comprise a large segment of the total output of the federal government, and some agencies have published significant titles over a long period of time, e.g., Occupational Outlook Handbook of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Uniform Crime Reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For the latter overview, the first edition is still valid, but one must keep in mind that all units of government are subject to constant reorganization, and publications begin, change titles, and fade with regularity.

Appendix A, entitled "Special Problems in Documents Librarianship," identifies them as mapping and charting, census bureau information, computer-based bibliographic services, federal audiovisual information, and microforms. These may be problem areas to some librarians, but they are sources important to all librarians and might have merited chapter status.

This work is of especial value to library school students who can use it as a basic introductory text to United States government publications. General reference librarians will find the work a useful current reference tool. It is also a readable text for users of government publications in general.

Morehead's style is envied by some and criticized by others. And while those to whom the English language is not a primary language may have some difficulty with sentences like "No theme, however fey, antic, arcane or ostensibly in apposite, remains far from the omniverous curiosity of government" (p.131), his style adds a light touch to the otherwise serious business of understanding and servicing federal government publications.


This book is a revision of U.S. Federal Official Publications: A Foreign Viewpoint issued by the University of Sussex Library [Great Britain] in 1975. Downey's book is divided into two sections; the first describes the intricacies of bibliographic control and acquisition of federal publications and discusses many government and commercially produced reference sources. The second section lists the major legislative, executive, judicial, and independent agencies, with a brief history of the unit and description of publications, especially those relevant to librarians and researchers outside the United States. The second section comprises three-quarters of the book.

The information included in the first section is accurate and current, though much of it is gathered from numerous articles and monographs published in recent years. In some ways the first section parallels the early chapters of Morehead's Introduction to United States Public Documents (Libraries Unlimited, 1975; 2d ed., 1978), but Downey does not attempt to cover the Superintendent of Documents classification system, the administration of government.
documents collections, or the depository li- 

brary system. However, Downey is perhaps 
a bit more comprehensive in his treatment 
of reference sources, the problem of non- 
GPO government publications, and the OP market.

The entries for each issuing agency in the 
second section, with the exceptions of the 
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Commerce; and State, are very brief. The forty-page chapter on the Agency for 
International Development is a fine analysis 
of its publications. My primary criticism of 
this second section is that it merely includes 
a random group of federal publications that 
might be of interest to foreigners. This is 
basically the same criticism I have of 
Morehead's book. Downey does not provide 
a systematic or well-organized list; individual titles may be noted while some basic 
reference works from these agencies are 
 omitted, making it very difficult to believe 
such a listing is of much value to anyone 
with more than a cursory interest in the 
publications of the federal government .

It is extremely difficult to be comprehen-
sive in listing government publications that 
would appeal to an international audience, 
but haphazard attempts do not seem the 
best method to follow. Given that I ques- 
tion the methodology employed, it should 
be pointed out nevertheless that 
Morehead's treatment of congressional and 
judicial materials is more comprehensive 
than Downey's, though when it comes to 
the executive agencies it is a tossup be- 
tween the two books.

Government publications librarians who 
have access to works by Morehead, 
Schwartzkopf, O'Hara, and others will gen- 
erally find little in this book to justify its 
exorbitant price.—Alan Edward Schorr, 
University of Alaska, Juneau.

Carpenter, Ray L., and Vasu, Ellen Storey. 
Statistical Methods for Librarians. 
119p. $12.50. LC 78-3476. ISBN 0-8389- 
0256-1.

Librarians are far from embracing empiri- 
cal research methods and statistical tech- 
niques as core elements of their professional

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