librarian,” and in the area of published articles he is an example to follow. Ristow’s involvement with the creation of the Geography and Map Libraries Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions is fittingly observed by the multi-national spread of these essays and by the fact that two of the contributions are in French and one is in German.

To state the obvious, this work belongs in map libraries and in the libraries of schools of librarianship. Beyond that, it must be regarded as rather specialized. Within its sphere of limited appeal, this is a valuable work, describing several map collections and giving a feel for the present state of an aspect of librarianship, that has yet to reach the full heights of its achievements.—J. B. Post, Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.


In contrast to its title, this reference work is a “guide” to publications of only the cabinet-level departments of the executive branch of the United States government. Even so, the author’s efforts represent a formidable task that will be fully appreciated only by those who have tried to comprehend and to reduce to paper the parameters of the massive publishing activity of the U.S. government.

Compiled chiefly to serve as a selection tool, this work contains information concerning executive agencies and their functions that one might expect to find only in a detailed handbook or, indeed, in the United States Government Manual. This combination would be quite incongruous for most reference works. Traditionally, selection tools, even those for government publications, have been written along strict subject lines. Frederic O’Hara, professor of library science at Long Island University, deviates from this practice. His basis of organization is by publisher—in this case the agencies of the executive branch. This is possible since a government agency’s publications reflect its relatively consistent concerns.

The basic arrangement of the work is alphabetical by executive branch departments. Each agency within a department is then treated in turn. The function, scope, and description of the agency are provided, often in considerable detail. This is followed by a delineation of the Superintendent of Documents classification numbers assigned to the agency, bibliographies of agency publications, and information about careers within the agency. Further categorical breakdowns of publications include: descriptions, histories, and grant programs of the agency; bibliographies generated by the agency; catalogs of audiovisual material; dictionaries and glossaries; statistical publications; histories produced by the agency; directories and addresses of regional offices; research results; regulations; and other useful series and titles.

Entries under each category are fully and wittily annotated. In addition, each entry is symbolically designated for its suggested utility in a reference collection or vertical file in college, public, school, or special libraries. Four separate indexes (agency, per-
sonal name, title, and subject) at the end of the work provide access to any item in the text.

Perhaps as a result of the time involved in organizing and annotating such a great wealth of material, some of the information is dated. For example, numerous Superintendent of Documents classifications have been changed. More distressing is the absence of any mention of the Department of Energy, established in 1977, and the lack of any reference to the publications of the Executive Office of the President. A longer introduction with a more detailed explanation of the organization of the work would also have been useful.

Nevertheless, as a guide to executive publications of the U.S. government, O'Hara's work is without peer and is a significant contribution to the growing reference literature dealing with U.S. government publications.—Steven D. Zink, College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio.

ABSTRACTS

The following abstracts are based on those prepared by the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources, School of Education, Syracuse University.

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This report is an evaluation of an interlibrary loan system that was put into operation for a six-month experimental period beginning January 1, 1978, by the Cleveland Area Metropolitan Library System (CAMLS), a regional cooperative network of nineteen public, academic, and special libraries in northern Ohio. The objective of the system was to increase efficiency by means of three major components: (1) the use of OCLC as the principal locator source with telefacsimile machines to relay requests directly from borrowing to lending library; (2) the use of a central resource library (Cleveland Public) to screen all requests for which OCLC did not provide a potential lending library; and (3) the use of referral circuit utilizing telefacsimile to route the remaining unfilled requests among member libraries. A statistical analysis of the ILL requests during the period indicated that more than one-half of all the requests were handled directly between the borrowing and lending libraries; of the remaining requests, one-third were filled by the resource library; and less than one-third of all requests were placed on the circuit. The evaluation concluded that the experimental system was successful and should be continued. Other recommendations and the questionnaire used in the evaluation are included in the report.


Designed to be of assistance to the new ERIC user, this glossary provides brief definitions of more than sixty terms associated with the ERIC data base and the search process. These include titles of indexes, agencies, and acronyms peculiar to ERIC as well as terms used to describe computer search strategy. A directory of ERIC network components—including the sixteen clearinghouses—is also provided.


As a first step toward resource sharing among libraries in the Cleveland Area Metropolitan Library System (CAMLS), a method, called the Site Appraisal for Area Resources Inventory (SAFARI), was developed to examine the library collections. This approach was different from others in that collections were compared by experts in a specific field. After a committee was organized, specific libraries that had significant