as Baker and Taylor’s LIBRIS.

George Lowry’s A Searcher’s Manual (Shoe String, 1965), based on the Searching Unit of the Acquisitions Department of the Columbia University Libraries, is a similar manual that is less slanted toward one library’s unique practices. In gaining its universality, it sacrifices some of its potential to spark ideas for new methods springing from specific practices. Also, because of its age, it does not include searching in the databases of any of the computer networks such as OCLC’s. It would be worth having, however, if one needs to make a study of existing manuals before developing one’s own.

Another source for ideas is Ted Grieder’s 1978 book Acquisitions: Where, What, and How (Greenwood Press). This book contains a useful chapter on compiling a search manual. However, it also was published before the author had much experience with network searching and, in addition, is intentionally more general than Lowry’s manual.

Anyone wanting a good example of a detailed search manual for a large university library will find Cornell’s to be a worthwhile purchase.—Martha Willett, Indiana State University, Evansville.


After several years in hiding, articles and books on approval plans have reappeared, with an entire conference being devoted to the subject last fall. Jennifer Cargill, head of acquisitions at Miami University (Ohio) and Brian Alley, head of technical services at Miami, have joined this renaissance with a study directed to the librarian who needs guidance in actually establishing and operating approval plans. Since the two major books on acquisitions (Ford, Acquisitions of Library Materials; Grieder, Acquisitions) give little guidance in this area, a practical study is certainly a worthwhile goal. Unfortunately, the book falls short of its promise.

The simplistic view of approval plans and the lack of coverage of many important topics related to approval plans make it impossible to recommend this book. This is unfortunate, for not only is the topic important, but also the authors have demonstrated much better work in their quarterly publication, IULC Technical Services Newsletter.—William Schenck, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.


This handsomely bound two-volume set is a reprint of all Cataloging Service bulletins emanating from the Library of Congress, beginning with the first in June 1945 through Spring 1978. The bulletins, which reflect LC policy and practice in every area of monographic and serials cataloging, are an indispensable tool in every cataloging de-