Book Reviews

Theory of Knowledge Classification in Libraries. By Anand Prakash Srivastava. New Delhi: Lakshmi Book Store, 1964. 206p. $6.75.

In the field of classification, provision of good textbooks for beginning students has lagged far behind the output of advanced works describing research. Mr. Srivastava has been teaching for some years in the Virkram, Delhi, and Rajasthan universities, and has now published this book on the basis of his lectures and seminars. It goes a long way towards filling the gap, and provides a useful introduction to the science of classification, particularly as developed in India under the influence of Professor S. R. Ranganathan.

There are five main sections and a useful (if somewhat limited) glossary. The book opens with a discussion of the structure of knowledge and the nature and role of classification schemes in ordering knowledge in documents for shelf arrangement and for the subject approach to books. The next two sections cover analysis into categories, or "facets"; the qualities of a classification scheme; terminology; and notation. These are followed by a more detailed account of the structure of a faceted scheme, and the final section deals with the procedure in classifying documents.

The approach is generalized, but the examples are all taken from the Colon and Decimal classifications. Although the author is wholeheartedly of the Ranganathan school, he has some criticism for CC and some praise for DC; and the book is dedicated to Melvil Dewey. He shows a good knowledge of current classification literature (especially British), and has clearly read H. E. Bliss's books with a sympathetic understanding. The exposition is lucid and shows a good grasp of the principles of teaching.

Criticism of the work derives mainly from its place of origin. It is written very much within the school established by Ranganathan, and may therefore appear new and strange to American students; the text is not free from errors in the use of English, or misprints. Though an elementary work, therefore, it is not easy to read. I am convinced, however, of the value of the work it describes, and recommend it to teachers in American library schools who are looking for a simple account of the principles of facet analysis. For anyone willing to make the effort to master the style and approach—remembering that the author is not writing in his mother tongue—the book repays study.—*D. J. Foskett, University of London.*

A Searcher's Manual. By George Lowy. Hamden, Conn.: Shoe Strong Press, 1965. 104p. $5. (65-16218).

Mr. Lowy has produced an interesting guide to the principles and practices of bibliographic searching. The guide is divided into three main parts: (1) the introduction, which includes the function of the search and principles of card catalog entries; (2) the technique of the search, including a comparison of procedures followed in several libraries, use of the main card catalog, use of bibliographies and catalogs, illustrative searches, search of the outstanding order file, serials and series and final steps; and (3) an appendix, which includes sections on the most frequently used bibliographic tools and selective lists of national, trade, and specialized bibliographies.

This slender volume should prove helpful in the training of new bibliographic searchers if used with established guides and if it is emphasized to the trainee that some of the principles stated are not universally accepted but may be practices of one library. No distinction is made, for example, between American-British and foreign authors in the rule for filing names with a prefix, and also the modification of letters is not disregarded in all libraries. The material is generally well organized, and good use is made of samples and tables throughout the text. Each chapter is summarized but in most cases the summary is too brief to be very useful. The chapters on basic principles and card catalog entries are well done except for the fact that the author fails to mention the best searcher's manual available—the ALA *Cataloging Rules for Author and Title Entries.*

Not all bibliographic searchers will agree