Recent Publications

BOOK REVIEWS

Chan, Lois Mai. *Library of Congress Subject Headings: Principles and Application.* Research Studies in Library Science, no. 15. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1978.

347p. $17.50 U.S., Canada; $21 elsewhere. LC 78-9497. ISBN 0-87287-187-8.

In light of the continued influence of Library of Congress subject headings in libraries, Lois Mai Chan offers to "professional librarians, library instructors, and advanced

library science students" a book that brings together in one place the principles and practices of the Library of Congress in regard to subject headings as they have evolved over the years.

Charles A. Cutter's *Rules* (1904), David J. Haykin's *Subject Headings* (1951), and pronouncements in *Cataloging Service Bulletin* (1945–1978) provide the basic documentation for the underlying principles examined. Other principles were determined from interviews with Library of Congress personnel and from the examination of Library of Congress catalogs.

The book attempts to "re-examine the underlying principles of *Library of Congress Subject Headings* in light of recent developments and some of the recent theories and to describe current subject cataloging practice as carried out by the Library of Congress." According to the author, "no attempt was made in this book to formulate any rules. It is an analysis of the principles and a description of current practice."

The book is divided into two major parts, with part 1 dealing with principles, form, and structure and part 2 with application. The principles cover uniform headings, terminology, and specificity. The chapter on forms of headings covers single noun headings, adjectival headings, conjunctive and prepositional phrase headings, headings with qualifiers, and inverted headings. In regard to structure, there is a chapter on subdivisions, one on cross-references, and another on proper names in subject headings.

Regarding practical aspects, the book covers the application of principles to special types of materials, such as serials, nonbook materials, and biography. Also included is the application of principles to certain subject areas, such as literature, music, and art. The work ends with eighty-one pages of appendixes, which include varied lists of cumulated free-floating subdivisions and rules for abbreviations, capitalization, punctuation, and filing.

The book is not easy reading, but it is impressive. The dissertationlike style of presentation of part 1, with its numerous direct quotations and exposition, may dissuade even some serious readers; however, the simple sentence structure facilitates the progression through the analysis. To fully understand the work, one must have not only a thorough knowledge of Library of Congress subject headings but also an understanding of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules and the works of Cutter and Haykin.

The reader may become perplexed by the lack of coordination or the collocation of some topics and the resulting redundancy. The repetition is more distracting than reinforcing. Also, in the relative index, one is hard pressed to predict the placement of a topic. For example, data on *see* references are indexed under "Cross references" and under "See references." Following a questionable principle of only referring from the broad to the specific, linkage between the two phrases exists only under the broader term.

The weakness in general organization and indexing is balanced by the wealth of information and the use of copious illustrations.

Library science instructors will welcome this book as a comprehensive compilation of subject heading principles that may be conveyed collectively to students who have already been exposed to basic theories of cataloging. Professional librarians will find the appendixes particularly useful as a convenient reference tool for routine subject heading work.

Though limited in appeal by design, the book is monumental in scope, it is timely, and it makes a significant contribution to the literature of subject analysis. It is hoped that it will generate a resurgence of interest in the development of a code that will do for subject cataloging what AACR has done for descriptive cataloging.—*Doris Hargrett Clack, Florida State University, Tallahassee.*

Library Space Planning. LJ Special Report #1. New York: Library Journal, 1976. 80p. $5. ISBN 0-8352-0950-4. ISSN 0362-448X.
Buying New Technology. LJ Special Report #4. New York: Library Journal, 1978. 64p. $5. ISBN 0-8352-1062-6. ISSN 0362-448X.

The Special Report entitled *Buying New Technology* consists of six reports on automated circulation systems, another six on online data base systems and services, one on an automated system for the cataloging and classification of government documents, one on automated materials storage, and two on audio applications.

The main contribution of the volume lies in the papers concerned with automated circula-