

and its 1977-78 Supplement cover the entire field of current business literature most completely of all.

With its emphasis on information services, major newsletters, trade journals, and government and special periodicals, *Where to Find Business Information* can be of particular assistance in answering questions relating to ongoing businesses, such as finding new markets, allied businesses or sources of supply, and advertising new products. It is a welcome additional tool too for handling the business information explosion resulting from new forms of computer and publishing technology.—*Barbara R. Healy, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York.*

Goehlert, Robert. *Congress and Law-making: Researching the Legislative Process*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Clio, 1979. 168p. \$17.50. LC 79-11554. ISBN 0-87436-294-6.

Finding information about Congress and federal legislation can be a long and rather involved procedure due to the complex nature of the legislative process and the maze of approaches and materials available.

Goehlert has prepared an introductory guide that very briefly outlines the journey from bill to law and describes the tracing of legislation and the researching of information about legislators. Unfortunately, there are shortcomings.

For the uninitiated this book is little more than an annotated bibliography of available resources, with few if any hints on how to use these materials. Though the author touches base with a variety of government and commercially produced legislative reference aids, most of these are only very briefly described. For some publications, such as those from CIS and CQ, little help is needed; for others, such as the *Calendars of the House and Senate*, *Digest of Public General Bills*, *United States Code*, *Congressional and Administrative News*, and others, the novice needs much more assistance. Numerous page illustrations from reference works often add to the confusion, as they are not self-explanatory, nor is their role explained in this overpriced text.

Illustrations, lists of research centers, and a fifty-two-page directory of government depository libraries account for half the

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book. Instead of listing 1,300 libraries, it would have been more helpful to devote two or three pages to a description of the Superintendent of Documents Classification System (SuDocs). Even a brief outline of SuDocs and the arrangement of the various relevant publications would have given the researcher a major advantage. Goehlert mentions SuDocs, but he does not outline the system or its role in libraries or the research process.

Furthermore, though Goehlert discusses the Serial Set, no one unfamiliar with it could possibly discern its relationship to materials and the tracing of legislation. In fact, the index to the Serial Set, the *Numerical Lists and Schedule*, is not even mentioned. A serious drawback is that citational interrelationships are not clearly explained, such as, for a report, its place in the Serial Set and how to locate it.

There is useful information in this book, but it is not pulled together in a way that most laypersons (and librarians) could easily understand. If one is already familiar with legislative research, the text is helpful; unfortunately, for the beginner it is confusing. If additional space were devoted to some of the problems enumerated and extraneous materials omitted, *Congress and Law-making* would be a more useful book.—Alan Edward Schorr, *University of Alaska, Juneau*.

**Cherns, J. J. *Official Publishing: An Overview*.** An International Survey and Review of the Role, Organisation and Principles of Official Publishing. Guides to Official Publications, V.3. Oxford, New York: Pergamon, 1979. 527p. \$40. LC 78-41157. ISBN 0-08-023340-6.

This ambitious survey of publishing activities and information transfer processes in nineteen countries with representative or parliamentary forms of government, nine major international organizations, including the UN family, and three private publishers is both a historical account of the development of publishing and a current assessment of the "forms of organization, the policies, and the objectives associated with official information and publishing."

This is not a bibliographic work nor one that librarians would keep handy to assist in

bibliographic searching or answering reference questions. Instead, it should be read to increase understanding of the field by all librarians dealing with foreign and international documentation. Students of the printing and publishing efforts of the United States and Canadian governments will also find it of value for the comparisons offered.

Even though the United States is probably the best-developed country in dissemination of publications, much can be learned from the trials and errors, successes and failures, and shortcomings and achievements of other governments.

For the practicing librarian, information is presented on historical quantity and quality of government publishing and its availability through bibliography as well as sources of supply. Occasionally, actual publications are listed in the text or as an appendix for purposes of illustration (e.g., Hong Kong Fact Sheets, page 169).

Organization charts showing the structure of each government's information and publishing or printing apparatus and working definitions currently in use increase the value of the work for purposes of comparison and idea generation. Differing attitudes toward copyright versus public domain also offer a basis for further exploration of this complicated and controversial area of public policy. Important differences in theory of information dissemination other than through publication are explored and conclusions drawn regarding their relative success or lack of it.

The volume is organized into three parts, including the scope and importance of official publishing, the survey itself, and the general review and conclusions from the study. While the format is a reproduction of the authors' original typescript for economy and timeliness, neither the type style nor the few typos encountered distract from the topic at hand.

The coverage from country to country is somewhat uneven, but necessarily so given the diverse nature of government publishing. Each country does include many of the following topics: population, constitution and form of government, information organization, publishing organization, range of government publishing, history of development, policy, parliamentary publishing, ref-