

Pearce, Michael, ed. *Non-standard Collection Management*. Hants, England and Brookfield, VT: Ashgate Publishing Company, 1992. xiii, 236pp. Index. \$59.95. ISBN 1-85742-020-9.

A beginner's guide to "unusual" collections encountered in public or academic libraries, this volume contains nine articles by British specialists. Its general approach may be useful to a novice who needs a basic, brief introduction to this kind of collection, but rare book and manuscript librarians are likely to be better served by more specialized monographs and journal articles. Because it is geared to a British audience, especially in discussing acquisition sources and in bibliographies, *Non-Standard Collection Management* would be a marginal purchase for American libraries that do not collect British books comprehensively. For those who do, this may be a title worth examining.

Each chapter follows a format which includes information about sources of acquisition, problems in conservation and preservation, and cataloging and classification peculiarities. All contributors concern themselves with access, see the MARC format as viable, and consider computers a possible solution to multiple access points. Discussions of microfilm tend to overlap from chapter to chapter.

Chris Sheppard discusses the uniqueness of manuscripts, the difficulties associated with control of their use, and their security from theft and environmental damage. He deals at length with acquisition by purchase from private

owners, dealers and auction houses, and through gifts offered or solicited. His description of sources for acquisitions and a section on important manuscript collections leaves no doubt that this book is intended primarily for a British audience.

John Turner subsumes rare books under the mantle of out-of-print books. His sources for acquisitions also are entirely British, and he extols the virtues of the *Eighteenth Century Short-Title Catalog* (ESTC) and the *Nineteenth Century Short-Title Catalog* (NSTC) with but a passing nod to OCLC and no mention at all of the Research Libraries Group's RLIN, to which the British Library contributes. In his section on conservation and preservation, Turner concentrates on acidic books and environmental controls. The bibliography acknowledges U.S. publications, but Britain appears to hold all the relevant collections.

The chapter on newspapers is still more parochial, dealing with the acquisition of local British newspapers in paper or microform. In explaining preservation problems, Eve Johansson discusses the desirability of microfilming, the drawbacks of microfiche, the differences between silver halide and diazo films, whether to film in-house or ship to or purchase from a vendor, and the impracticality of optical disc and CD-ROM storage for newspapers. Here too, newspaper collections of significance are British, as are items listed in the extensive bibliography.

The serials chapter contains information applicable on both sides of the Atlantic. Beginning with definitions of monographic and periodical serials, Albert Mullis's timely segment discusses

resource sharing during budget cuts, the proliferation of serials available on CD-ROM, weeding, and the replacement of paper copy with microfilm. He addresses some of the choices of purchasing—from a vendor or directly—and the problems inherent in cataloging entries—open ended, closed, and discontinued purchase.

Straying from the established format, Andrew Tatham presents cartographic materials slightly differently. He discusses the creation of maps for various uses, interrelating data sets such as paleolithic sites and drainage patterns; by themselves they are monodimensional; together they provide archaeologists with settlement patterns in context with the land. Tatham identifies the variety of groups who need maps and how they use them. He correlates use to storage and classification systems, providing tables of four schemes: Library of Congress, physiographic area, UDC, and GSGS area tables. Tatham fails to address preservation needs such as 105mm microfiche, and his notable collections are housed in Great Britain; his bibliography is global.

Stuart Waumsley provides a wealth of information on cataloging and classification, problems of editions, handling, storage and preservation of sets of plays and music for performance, a highly specialized form of material acquired by theater or music libraries.

The editor, Michael Pearce, writing on ephemera, contributes the least useful chapter. He adequately defines ephemera—the oddities which all libraries seem to attract—and recognizes

the importance of collecting it to document social science and local history. He explains why, how, where, and what to collect. But Pearce also advises the use of “library paste” to compile scrapbooks and the sealing of items in “plastic” envelopes. He does not mention Mylar, the problems associated with outgassing, or the most recent cautions about fully encapsulating nondeacidified documents. He does provide a useful—though primarily British—annotated, chronological bibliography of literature about ephemera.

John Kirby devotes his chapter to slides, microfilms, and microfiches as media. He discusses use, cataloging, and preservation problems, and the accuracy of slide images. He thinks CD-ROM and other electronic formats may supplant microforms in the future. This nontechnical chapter presents information broadly without a British focus.

The final chapter, on visual and audio recordings, recognizes the problems inherent in changing technologies. Patsy Cullen discusses the need to maintain equipment for access to cinematic film, videotape, audiotape, optical discs, and vinyl recordings as well as the problems of physical construction and instability of these formats. She acknowledges the difficulty in systematic acquisition since copyright deposit in the UK does not include them.—*Susan Hamburger, Manuscripts Cataloger, University of Virginia.*

ESTC on CD-ROM. London: The British Library, 1991. \$1915. Available in the United States from Research Publications, Inc., 12 Lunar Drive/Drawer AB, Woodbridge, CT 06525.