

recommendations might serve as the basis not only for the acceptance of microfilm in those countries "where such regulation is not yet complete" but also for an international convention dealing with the legal validity of microfilm.

Unfortunately the customary section on "Archival Microfilming" usually does not contain articles of any substance. Most of the material in this section consists of brief, rather general reports of the microfilming activities of various national archives. In a typical piece, some information is given regarding the development of the particular agency's microfilming programme. Extensive statistics concerning the nature of the agency's microfilming holdings are also provided. While this information may be of considerable value to the members of the Microfilming Committee who are concerned with the development of microfilm practices throughout the world, the average reader will derive little benefit from this material.

In spite of the fact that the section entitled "Technique" contains some articles of general archival interest on subjects such as microfilm reader specifications, the bulk of the material is probably too "technical" for the majority of archivists. Obviously it is directed to the person who is intimately involved in the production and handling of archival microfilm. Of special remark are the reports on the various studies involving the permanence of microfilm.

Limitations notwithstanding, the *Bulletin* is a worthwhile effort in that it not only makes known the activities of the Committee, but it successfully realises the Committee's aims of publishing the results of archival microfilming and disseminating information on microfilming techniques and experiences. Archivists can only value it as a useful reference tool.

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Studies in Micropublishing 1853-1976: Documentary Sources. Edited by ALLEN B. VEANER. Westport, Conn.: Microform Review, 1976. xx, 489 p. ISBN 0913672 07 6 \$19.95.

Veaner's volume is of limited value to archivists. It is prepared for librarians, witness sections such as "The Role of Microforms in Collections Building, Education and Scholarship" or those dealing with the cataloguing of microforms. Archivists of course classify microforms by their creator as if they were original materials. A further drawback of this book is its form since it is a collection of source documents and not articles offering operational advice. Although some parts relate to archival activities, their value is attenuated by the fact that micropublication is emphasised rather than microfilming. There is no attempt to be comprehensive either in such areas as preservation. Even though there is a usefully referenced article by Werner Clapp, only two out of fifty articles deal with the permanence and durability of microfilm. Unfortunately too, some of the recent German and British sources on the longevity of diazo film are excluded.

The real weakness is that the book does not draw together the most up-to-date literature on subjects considered—only seven have been published since 1970. Yet so much has happened technologically and in the sphere of micropublishing. For instance, there have been significant developments in film types, especially microfiche, and in the marriage of computers and microforms. These aspects are touched on but quite inadequately covered.

Notwithstanding, *Studies of Micropublishing* offers a very good historical perspective. In many of the articles there is a great deal of information on the creation and care of microforms. Archivists will recognise both how they have suffered under the exaggerated claims of the microfilming industry and how careless they themselves can be in handling master negatives, in properly identifying material to be filmed and in accurately

estimating preparation and verification of film projects. That such information appears in a scattered form is a drawback, but it is not an insuperable hurdle.

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Lexikon Archivwesen der DDR Herausgegeben von der STAATLICHEN ARCHIVVERWALTUNG des MINISTERIUMS des INNER der DDR. Berlin: Staatsverlag der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, 1977. 319, [1] p. Dm. 11.

The *Lexikon Archivwesen Der DDR* is a dictionary of archival terms, defined with reference to archival theory, the East German experience and marxist-leninist principles. The book draws for this purpose not only from concepts derived from the theory and practice of archives, but also from library science, museology, information retrieval, history and related disciplines. More than fifty archivists and professionals from related fields participated in preparing the work which is to serve as a dictionary for archivists, archival schools and researchers using archives in East Germany. The dictionary will be updated to take cognizance of future developments in archives.

Organized alphabetically by term, the Lexikon defines the material which archives collect, the processes whereby such material is organized, described, repaired, etc. Definitions provide a general description of the terms. Major terms are also discussed with reference to their development through time, their relationship to a specific type of document or to a specific technological process. The reader is given an insight into archives as these related to the earliest documents or to the most recent computer technology.

Thorough in its definitions and far-ranging in the areas it covers, the Lexikon provides an excellent insight into archives and archival principles. It presents a good description of the operation of archival institutions in the DDR. What remains unclear, however, is just how archival concepts defined in terms of marxist-leninist principles differ from those common in capitalist countries.

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