

## BOOK NOTES

MANUAL ON THE USE OF STATE PUBLICATIONS. *Edited by Jerome K. Wilcox, Sponsored by the Committee on Public Documents of the American Library Association. American Library Association, 1940. pp. x, 342. \$6.00.*

A book which calls attention to the host of activities conducted by our state governments, especially through their executive branches, when so much attention is now focused upon the enormous expansion of the functions of the Federal Government, makes a distinct contribution. Such a presentation in the form of discussions and bibliographies of all the publications of those groups carrying on such activities, written and compiled by the many able contributors to this Manual, who include professors, librarians, members of societies and councils interested in government, and students, may not be the most graphic method, but it is—like a dictionary—indispensable as a reference work, ever handy to direct surely and quickly the economist, political scientist, sociologist, lawyer and other interested students in acquiring first-hand knowledge of the operation of these governmental functions. Although the Manual is not confined in its usefulness only to lawyers, nevertheless almost any publication described and listed therein may at some time become helpful, if not essential, to a lawyer in the pursuit of his profession. To inform him regarding the existence of these publications, when otherwise such sources of legal research might be overlooked, assures the thoroughness which produces a lawyer-like job.

The Manual is divided into five parts with a subject index at the end. Part I, after stressing the function and importance of state documents, both records and reports, original and descriptive, periodic and special, then discusses and enumerates the publications of the many varied departments, offices, and agencies of each state. Part II gives a picture of other more indirect aids to research; such as a bibliography of bibliographies of state publications and further catalogues many surveys and charts of the administrative reorganizations and state government organizations of the respective states. Of the latter, Professor Harvey Walker of the Department of Political Science of Ohio State University is responsible for fifteen. Part III deals with those state publications which constitute the law<sup>1</sup> and those aids which help to establish intimate and immediate contact with it and its interpretations. This section covers chiefly the judicial and legislative branches of the

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<sup>1</sup> BEARDSLEY, LEGAL BIBLIOGRAPHY AND THE USE OF LAW BOOKS (1937), 6-7, 131-132.

government. Here, in addition, information concerning state administrative, regulatory and advisory functions constitutes a recent, but large part.<sup>2</sup> The remaining two parts respectively list the publications of national associations of state officers and summarize the legal provisions and practice, relative to the printing of this abundant and varied material, including the method for its exchange and distribution. A glance at the list of sponsors and compilers assures confidence in the thoroughness and accuracy of the coverage of the Manual, full use of which as an initial step to research should leave no stone unturned.

Of chief interest to the lawyers of Ohio are the bibliographies and tables. These are arranged either alphabetically by states (in some cases territories being included) or by subject matter (particular function performed) or sometimes by a combination of both methods, revealing over thirty-five references to different publications of the State of Ohio. To meet capably and thoroughly any of the multitudinous problems involved regarding the relations of government to the governed requires research. Where to begin the search for such information is the first essential question to be answered. This Manual, being the best substitute for the competent help of a state or supreme court librarian, answers that question.

CHARLES BERTRAND BAYLY, JR.  
Instructor of Law  
Ohio State University

THE NEWSPAPER AS DEFINED BY LAW. *James E. Pollard.*<sup>1</sup>  
*Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State University Press. 1940.*  
*pp. viii, 82. \$1.25.*

Professor James E. Pollard of the School of Journalism, Ohio State University, has recently written a book, *The Newspaper as Defined by Law*, published by the Ohio State University Press. In this book Professor Pollard covers the question of what is a "newspaper" from all possible angles.

The book is divided into four parts, the first deals with the dictionary definitions, the second reviews the statutory definitions, the third is an analysis of these statutes, and the fourth is devoted to the judicial definitions. The section devoted to the statutory definitions is very complete and contains a very full statement of the provisions of the statutes of every state in the union which pretends to specify what a newspaper is

<sup>2</sup> A bibliography of material on these functions, arranged by subject matter covered, declared to be "by no means . . . exhaustive," nevertheless is seventy-five pages long.

<sup>1</sup> Director, School of Journalism, Ohio State University.