

U.S. Government
Scientific & Technical
Periodicals

PHILIP A. YANNARELLA
and
RAO ALURI

BIBLIOTHEQUE DU CERIST

DL107

U.S. Government Scientific & Technical Periodicals



compiled by
PHILIP A. YANNARELLA
and
RAO ALURI



The Scarecrow Press, Inc.
Metuchen, N.J. 1976

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Yannarella, Philip A

U.S. Government scientific and technical periodicals.

Includes indexes.

1. Science--Periodicals--Bibliography--Union Lists. 2. Technology--Periodicals--Bibliography--Union Lists. 3. Catalogs, Union--United States. 4. American periodicals--Bibliography--Union lists.

I. Aluri, Rao, joint author. II. Title.

Z7403.Y36 [Q156.5] 016.5'05 75-38740

ISBN 0-8108-0888-9

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Manufactured in the United States of America

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PREFACE

Publications of the U. S. Government, one of the largest publishers in the world, cover a wide variety of fields, primarily in the social sciences, science and technology. There are numerous bibliographies and guides covering the federal government literature, but in general these are oriented toward the social sciences. Though the extensive nature of the federal scientific and technical literature is well known, no attempt has been made to compile bibliographies or guides focussing on the federal scientific output, especially of periodicals.

Periodicals published by the U.S. Government agencies or federal contractors and grantees include primary journals, review serials, indexing and abstracting services and newsletters covering a number of subject fields such as physics, chemistry, engineering, medicine, biology, meteorology, and oceanography. The nature of these periodicals varies greatly. While FDA Consumer provides consumer information, Journal of the National Cancer Institute publishes scholarly articles; and Journal of Research of the National Bureau of Standards represents the work done at the NBS laboratories. Fishery Bulletin announces the work of qualified scientists regardless of their affiliation; while the Journal of Physical and Chemical Reference Data covers the evaluated scientific numerical data, Nuclear Safety concentrates on review articles.

Similarly, the indexing and abstracting services vary from exploratory current awareness services such as Hydrogen-Future Fuel to comprehensive services such as Nuclear Science Abstracts. Sources such as Government Reports Announcements and Technical Abstracts Bulletin are unique in that together they form the national bibliography of federally sponsored technical report literature. While many of the periodicals coming from federal sources are available through the Superintendent of Documents, many more are available only through the agencies; some others are available only to qualified users; and still others are only for in-house use. Na-

tional Technical Information Service is the source for many translated journals as well as for periodicals published by some federally supported information analysis centers.

In this publication, the term "government periodicals" is loosely interpreted to include the output of grantees, contractors, and federally supported information analysis centers. Even though National Research Council--National Academy of Sciences--National Academy of Engineering is not strictly a federal agency, some of its publications are also included in view of its close ties with the Federal government. The authors feel strongly that to gain a comprehensive view of the federal scientific activities, this broad interpretation is essential.

Though we believe that all significant periodicals are covered in this bibliography, it is not comprehensive for various reasons. Apart from the ones we probably missed, some agencies specifically requested us not to include their publications as they are meant only for internal use and they were afraid of being swamped by requests. In some cases we could not get adequate information in view of the confidential nature of the material involved. We did not include all the available translation journals or all the continuing bibliographies published by NASA. In such cases we covered a sample periodical and suggested sources for additional information. In general, series such as NBS-Technical notes, specifications and standards are not included as we hope to cover them in a companion volume to this publication. Accessions bulletins of various federal libraries are omitted as well as statistical annuals such as Agricultural Statistics. On the other hand, we included some privately published periodicals in view of their close relation with the federal government (e.g., Journal of Physical and Chemical Reference Data) or federal publications (e.g., International Aerospace Abstracts). Others which ceased as federal publications but otherwise continued are also included (e.g., Monthly Weather Review). Some recently ceased periodicals are also listed, especially if they are a part of continuing series. On the whole, this bibliography represents only a part of the scientific and technical literature published by the Federal government.

This publication is divided into two parts. Part I is the main section listing the periodicals. Under each title as much information as is available is presented, including an abstract. As far as possible, the annotation reflects the editorial policies of each periodical. In some cases letters were sent to the agencies and editors asking for information

on the current scope and mission of their publications. If the annotation is supplied either fully or partially by the agency, it is indicated by the words, "Agency abstract." Where there are a number of changes in the character of the periodical, we hope it is adequately reflected in the historical data presented--such as its earlier titles, class numbers, etc. Much of this historical data about each periodical is scattered over a number of sources and this publication attempts to bring together all the data in one place.

The second section lists the bibliographies and lists of publications issued from the federal agencies. In general, no attempt has been made to provide an abstract for these items. Most of these are available from the respective agencies. These are selected from the item number list sent to the depository libraries by the Government Printing Office as Part II of its Biennial Report of Depository Libraries. Agency identification by classification number, which is a part of the above biennial report, is reprinted as Appendix A for convenience. As documents librarians are aware, there are a few minor changes in this list; but no attempt has been made to correct them.

This brings us to another point. Federal publications are in constant flux. Titles, prices, corporate authors and almost everything else seem to change at whim and it is impossible to keep abreast of them. We have tried to incorporate the most current information, but we are aware that there are omissions and commissions. We will be grateful if they are brought to our attention.

In compiling this bibliography numerous sources were consulted and these are separately listed in Appendix B. We consulted resources of a number of libraries through personal visits, phone calls, letters and interlibrary loan services. The authors express their grateful thanks to the heads of the agencies, editors of the periodicals, and librarians for graciously supplying us with the requested information; to Mrs. Betsy Laird, Interlibrary Loan Librarian at Gene Eppley Library, University of Nebraska at Omaha; to Peter Hernon for critically reading the manuscript and making helpful suggestions; to Dan Lester of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for his advice and encouragement; and to Patricia Yannarella for her help. The authors earnestly hope that this publication will serve a useful purpose.

Philip Yannarella
Rao Aluri

Omaha, Neb.
Dec. 26th, 1974