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FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE

FORSYTH LIBRARY LEAFLET -- No. 6

HOW TO FIND BOOK REVIEWS

The BOOK REVIEW DIGEST and other special indexes locate reviews published in magazines just as the READERS' GUIDE TO PERIODICAL LITERATURE locates other magazine articles.

When you use the indexes to find the reviews of a book, you will need to know:

1. The full name of the author.
2. The exact title of the book.
3. The year the book was published, because reviews usually appear soon after the book. Look for the date of publication, or the copyright date, on the front or back of the title page of the book. When more than one date is given, use the earliest.

Check the author, title, and year of publication in the Card Catalog if you do not have the book with you.

The BOOK REVIEW DIGEST locates reviews in more than seventy different magazines. It has been published every year since 1905, and is kept up-to-date by monthly supplements.

The BOOK REVIEW DIGEST is on the table in the Reference Room. Each volume is arranged alphabetically by author. Look first in the volume for the year your book was published. If it isn't there, try the next volume.

Example:

For reviews of ANAPURNA, by Maurice Herzog, published in 1953, look in the BOOK REVIEW DIGEST for the year 1953, under Herzog, Maurice. You will find a short description of the book, references to some of the magazines containing reviews, and quotations from some of those reviews.

The references to magazines are very much like those in the READER'S GUIDE. Abbreviations are explained in the front of each volume of the BOOK REVIEW DIGEST. Here is a sample reference:

+ Sat R 36:32 Ja 24'53 800w

This is what it means:

+ =Review is favorable to book.
(Minus sign unfavorable)

Sat R= SATURDAY REVIEW, Name of magazine publishing
the review.

36=Volume number of magazine.

32=Page where review appears.

Ja 24'53=January 24, 1953, date of magazine.

800w=Number of words in review.

If you want to read one of the reviews listed, fill out a call card with the name, date, and volume number of the magazine containing the review. Note the page numbers for your own information.

MAGAZINE INDEXES, Forsyth Library Leaflet No. 3, gives full directions for obtaining a magazine.

WHO WROTE IT? Forsyth Library Leaflet No. 4, gives full directions for obtaining biographical information.

REVIEWS ON VERY NEW BOOKS

If your book is so new that reviews have not been listed in the BOOK REVIEW DIGEST, you may find it reviewed in the latest numbers of magazines at the Circulation Desk. Try, for example:

NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW
SATURDAY REVIEW
ATLANTIC MONTHLY
HARPER'S MAGAZINE

REVIEWS OF OLD BOOKS

If your book was published before the BOOK REVIEW DIGEST began in 1905, use one or more of the following magazine indexes, which are in the Reference Room:

READERS' GUIDE TO PERIODICAL LITERATURE, 1900-date.
NINETEENTH CENTURY READERS' GUIDE, 1890-1900.
POOLE'S INDEX TO PERIODICAL LITERATURE, 1802-1900

Lists reviews of non-fiction under the subjects of the books, rather than under their authors, but lists reviews of novels, plays, and poetry under the authors.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS

There are many guides which list reviews of books on special subjects not included in the BOOK REVIEW DIGEST. A few of them are listed below. Since most of these guides are not arranged alphabetically, look for your author's name in the index at the end of each volume.

TECHNICAL BOOK REVIEW INDEX, v24-1958 - date. Bibliography Room.

Lists reviews of books in the fields of engineering, business, home economics, and industry.

ANNUAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, 1920-date. Bibliography Room.

Lists scholarly articles and books and refers to some reviews of the books.

EDUCATION INDEX, 1929-date. Reference Room.

Lists reviews of books in the field of education under the heading "Book reviews."

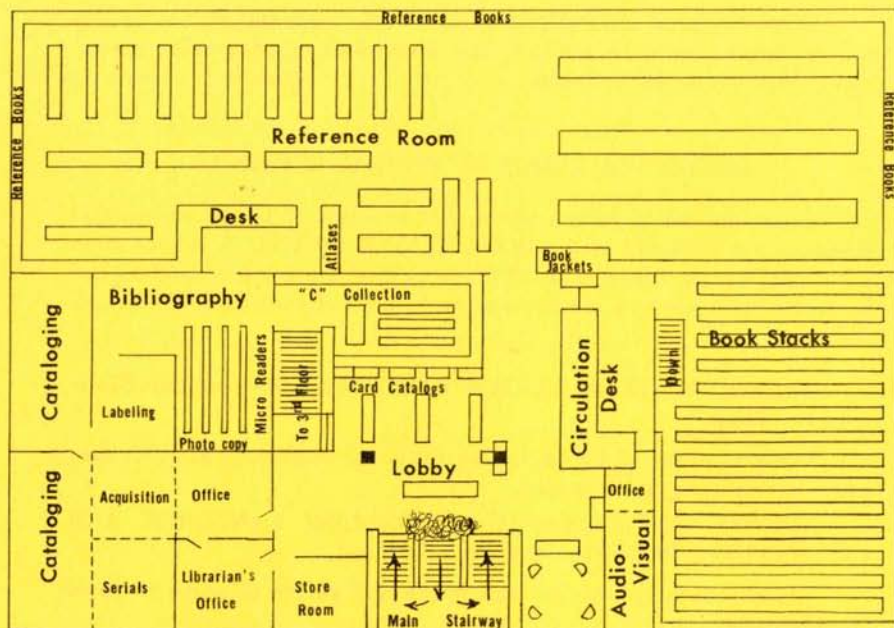
WRITINGS ON AMERICAN HISTORY, 1902-date. Documents Department.

Lists the books and articles on American history published each year, and refers to book reviews.

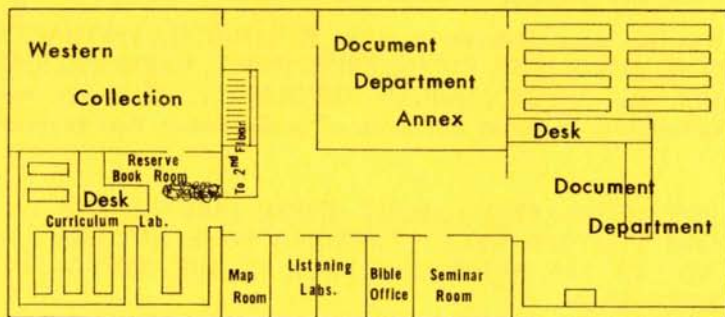
There are some indexes, such as BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS, CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, ENGINEERING INDEX, MATHEMATICAL REVIEWS, and PSYCHOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS, which give very brief descriptive notes or abstracts of books rather than reviews.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE INDEXES AND
FOR FURTHER HELP IN FINDING BOOK REVIEWS
ASK AT THE REFERENCE DESK IN THE REFER-
ENCE ROOM

Forsyth Library



Second Floor



Third Floor