

# BOOK NOTES

Angell, William and Claesgens, Joan. *Literature Resources for Consumer-Oriented Housing Education* (St. Paul: University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service) October 1976. 126 pp., \$5.00 paper. Order: Extension Housing Bibliography, 266 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108; check payable to U of M.

This publication, previewed at the 11th AAHE Annual Meeting, contains approximately 2500 abstracts of non- and semi-technical housing references available from 300 sources, including state extension services, professional and trade associations, and federal agencies. Most of the citations are bulletings, worksheets, etc., and are not catalogued in traditional library or other sources as are the resources that support classroom instruction on-campus. The index, an adaptation of *Sweet's Catalog* and HUD's *Urban Vocabulary*, containing 13 major categories and over 100 sub-categories, could well be the basis for a housing filing system. A key word cross-reference adds insurance that citations covering more than one topic will be found, yet not listed repeatedly. The materials listed, the result of mailed requests, were screened for relative educational value to housing consumers and abstracted to reflect breadth and character of content, but not a comparative evaluation. Since one could spend over \$300 in postage alone ordering the items, it would be interesting to note which 120 references were selected for distribution to the Minnesota extension field staff.

The most obvious benefits of this collection are summed up in the general objectives of the project: to create an awareness of professional and

trade association involvement in consumer-oriented research and education, and of federal and land-grant institution-developed teaching resources in housing. This will encourage: cooperation between housing educators and association interests, more timely development of new materials, and effective use of improvement of existing resources (including the avoidance of unnecessary and time-consuming production of teaching aids which duplicate materials available from other sources).

Most citations are relatively recent, but can very quickly become dated in any bibliography. Thus the mention of a possible computerized system for corrections, additions, etc., is a hopeful sign. Even if that does not materialize, the basic resources, with addresses, are worth having in one volume. Finally, the reader and this association should feel challenged to undertake a study of the *available* resources listed, and determine what additional resources are *needed*, then get on with them!

—Betty Jo White  
Colorado State U.

Abler, Ronald editor. *A Comparative Atlas of America's Great Cities: Twenty Metropolitan Regions* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press and the Association of American Geographers) 1976. 528 pp., oversize, \$95.00 cloth.

This large volume is one of three products of the AAG Comparative Metropolitan Analysis Project, funded by the National Science Foundation, and intended to serve as individual portraits and con-