Q: Has anyone noticed a proliferation of defective books within the last several months? From 10/89 to 2/90, I asked my staff to rigorously keep track of every defective title received, and the results were astounding. We noted publisher, printer, country of origin, and vendor along with whether the book was paper or hard bound, and then what the defect was.

I would be interested in knowing if anyone else is having this problem, and if anyone knows why?!

·Rosann Bazirjian (Syracuse University)

Ed note: Do we have any comments on this issue, from librarians and publishers? For myself, I’ve noted that we seem to be getting a lot more “flimsily bound” big books. Often the cover is coming off just from shipping through the mail! Comments?

MORE FYI

ALA Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) Serials Section Acquisitions Committee Meeting 1990 Annual Conference, Chicago

At its 1990 Annual Conference meeting, the Serials Section Acquisitions Committee of ALCTS assessed progress on drafts of several documents of interest to serials and acquisitions professionals. An extensive glossary of acquisitions and serials terms is nearing completion; the committee is currently soliciting comments from various groups and hopes to have a final draft ready for approval at the 1991 ALA Midwinter Meeting. A guide for handling of serials orders for serials and periodicals is also undergoing final revision.

Substantial progress has also been made on a set of guidelines for performance evaluation of serials vendors. A bibliography on serials vendor evaluation has been compiled, and a partially completed draft of the guidelines was distributed at the June meeting. Work on this draft will continue through Fall 1990, and there are plans to have a more complete revision ready for the committee’s review at 1991 Midwinter.

For more information on these or other activities of the SS Acquisitions Committee, contact Jana Lonberger, Chair, 2564 Wildflower Lane, Snellville, Georgia 30078; ph. (404)894-4517; BITNETJLONBERG@GTRI01.