REFERENCE BOOKS OF 1978

A list of last year's outstanding reference books compiled for *LJ* by the Outstanding Reference Books Committee, Reference and Adult Services Division, American Library Association

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Edited by Jovian P. Lang, Q.F.M.

WHICH early football player later became President of the United States? Who were the winners of the U.S. International Environmental Prize? How do I start on my term paper topic—air pollution? What social service agency will handle the financial needs of the Hispanics in my neighborhood? How does one prepare and cook octopus? Where can I find biographical information on the first governor of my state? Are there any fiction books on the blind that would appeal to my teenager? How do citizens of the Third World earn a living?

Questions such as these, frequently posed from the other side of the reference desk, explain why most librarians are anxious to consult the following list of reference tools where-in the answers lie. Each year the members of the Outstanding Reference Books Committee of the Reference and Adult Services Division of ALA, after argumentative debate and much agonizing soul searching, decide on certain reference titles of primary interest to small and medium-sized public and college libraries. The committee is bound by the accepted definition of a reference tool as found in the ALA Glossary: "A book designed by its arrangement and treatment to be consulted for definite items of information rather than to be read consecutively."

Other criteria to be followed are that these adult reference publications not be revisions, new volumes of information above from The Blue Cross Great Outdoors Guide to the U.S. and Canada by Val Landi, Copyright © 1978 by Wilderness Sports Corporation.
complete sets, pamphlets, books of local interest, foreign language publications, bibliographies and criticisms of individual authors, or annuals (unless it is the first publication of this annual). Many fine titles are excluded from consideration by these criteria. Analogously, appearance on this list strongly implies that the book be examined closely for suitability prior to purchase for a specific library.

The very nature of this list precludes the possibility of balance among subject areas. Although each committee member takes primary responsibility for a specific subject area, at least two members have examined each book chosen prior to the final decision reached by consensus of the committee.

Libraries and book stores throughout the United States were patronized by the committee members in locating and evaluating the tools. Some publishers thoughtfully provided review copies for the committee. This year, the Baker and Taylor Company, a jobber, graciously brought to the ALA Midwinter meeting copies of those books it had in stock, which we were unable to locate by ourselves. This service was extremely beneficial in accelerating the decision process.

Since the 1979 ALA Midwinter meeting was several weeks early, we assume that we may have unwittingly excluded worthy titles from this list. It is our intent to consider them in the selection for 1979. Eleven 1977 imprints are carried over in this year's list.

Trends observed by the committee during the year concerning publishing in the reference field might be well worth mentioning here. The field comprising the occult and parapsychology, always popular, has many unacceptable reference tools, indicating that the area still awaits adequate coverage.

Many useful guides for the handicapped traveler, and for women, have appeared, quite good, yet not "outstanding." Keep your eyes open for more works on ethics, especially bioethics. It would seem that some noteworthy books in this area will be forthcoming shortly.

Whether because biography forms a base for many other disciplines—or whether it's just that people are intrigued by books about other people—there is a large group of notable biographical books on this year's list. Several titles in other categories also embody much biographical information.

A strong trend toward what might be entitled "instant research" has appeared. Genre or subject material is assembled for the convenience of the researcher, who is relieved of the responsibility for locating and consulting a number of these sources. Collections of critical excerpts, subject bibliographies, and collective biographical works proliferate. Some such compilations fill the need for material that is otherwise unavailable to most researchers for whom time is money. On the other hand, it may be viewed as a product of the commercial impulse which is quick to provide appealing items for today's "instant everything" consumers.

The committee is cognizant of an ever-increasing number of reference sources and services that are available in microformat and on data bases, yet our current obligation is toward reference books. We in no way denigrate these newer formats. Each library must seriously consider its ability to purchase and handle such tools.

Members of this year's Outstanding Books Committee, the compilers of the following list, are: David Bosca, Literature and Philosophy Division, Chicago Public Library; Deborah C. Masters, Reference Librarian, Pennsylvania State University, University Park; Joan Meador, Head, Reference Department, Tulsa City-County Library, Oklahoma; Teresa Payne, Librarian, Denver Public Library, Colorado; Janet E. Sheets, Reference Department, Moody Memorial Library, Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Jane I. Thesing, Reference Librarian, University of South Carolina, Columbia; Marieta Tobey, Reference Librarian, Mercy College Library, Dobbs Ferry, New York; Wiley Williams, Peabody Library School, Nashville, Tennessee; and serving as chairperson, Rev. Jovian P. Lang, O.F.M., Division of Library and Information Science, St. John's University, Jamaica, New York. The committee appreciates the pertinent observations articulated by visitors at our discussion sessions.

A display of these tools can be found in the Reference and Adult Services Division booth during the annual conference of the American Library Association in Dallas, Texas, June 25-29. After the conference the books will be available for loan for any interested group for exhibits at regional, state, or local meetings. The only fee for this service is payment of transportation charges. For further information write to the Executive Secretary, Reference and Adult Services Division, American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, Ill. 60611.
The resurgenue of Muslim power 1520 to 1639

Listed here are more than 2700 plays by approximately 900 black Afro-Americans, some Caribbean writers, and other black nationals whose plays have been produced in the U.S. Entries include plot summary, date of composition, cast, length, copyright, genre, production and permission information, and library source when known. Bibliographies and appendices offer a variety of drama-related material including dissertations on American drama; addresses of playwrights, agents, and agencies; awards; and oral history.


More than 600 English-language, 20th Century writers of fiction, poetry, and drama for children, selected for inclusion by an editorial board of advisers, are covered in entries ranging in length from one to several pages. Each article includes biographical data, a list of writer’s works, and a signed, critical essay by one of the approximately 150 contributors, some of whom also appear as subjects in the body of the book.


Using official sources, two communist affairs analysts provide brief current information (education, career, honors, memberships, publications) on leaders in politics, economics, science, the military, the arts, literature, and religion in Albania, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Korea, Laos, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union (over 4000 entries), Vietnam, and Yugoslavia. An appendix includes last-minute updating in letters A-L and biographies received too late for inclusion in the biographical portion.

Each of the over 800 short entries for famous figures in sub-Saharan African history include direct references to the extensive bibliography at the end. Moreover, group and theme entries (such as lists of kings of empires and colonial governors, and generic titles) plus topical and variant name indexes enrich this compact and very useful tool. Though it will be overshadowed by the multivolume Dictionary of African Biography (1977), it should be ideal for smaller libraries and students.


Listing over 850 blacks, living or deceased, who have made significant contributions to the world of the performing arts, this directory effectively fills the need for a single source of information on this subject. The term "performing arts" is used to cover the fields of dance, film, music, radio, television, and the theater. The alphabetical entries (with appropriate cross references) include real names, personal information such as dates, education, professional credits, honors, address, and relationships to others in the performing arts.


This bio-bibliographical work provides information on the personal and professional lives of over 1300 internationally known contemporary artists. Arranged alphabetically, each write-up incorporates biographical information, lists of shows and collections, addresses of artists and artists' dealers, bibliographies, and, in some cases, comments by the artist and signed critical essays. In this unique volume, which should be part of every collection serving patrons with an interest in contemporary art, representatives of the new artistic movements are well covered.


Compiling information on 1,665 leaders in American education from the 1700's to the present, including living persons who were retired or past age 60 by 1975, this new work provides a convenient single source for the "who's who" information that, while available for many of these individuals in other sources, would be scattered and hard to locate. The signed sketches include references to additional sources, including the standard bibliographical tools. Appendixes provide lists of biographies by state of birth, state of major service to education, major field of specialization, and date of birth. There is a detailed index.


Entries provide information on the life and careers of each of the more than 2000 persons who have taken the oath of office as governor of one of the 50 states between 1789 and 1978. Birth, death, ancestry and family, political and religious affiliation, and voting record are included. Bibliographical references and locations of the governors' papers are given. Listings are aligned chronologically by date of service within the larger category of alphabetically arranged series. Volumes may be acquired individually.

RELIGION


"Primary religious groups" are arranged alphabetically by name, giving address and, occasionally, publications. The most inter-
From Encyclopedia of the Third World by George Thomas Kurian (Facts on File)

Iran

From Encyclopedia of the Third World by George Thomas Kurian (Facts on File)

Chapter IV and V (family groups of the religious establishment and family groups outside of the religious establishment), where the family groups, such as the Liturgical Family or the Psychological Family, are delineated and each member of the family is listed in its appropriate subfamily grouping. Useful footnotes and bibliography are appended.

EDUCATION


Compiled over five years, containing some 1300 entries, this comprehensive and authoritative work provides original signed articles on national systems of higher education, contemporary topics, individual fields of study, national and international educational organizations, centers, and institutes of higher education research. An international directory of documentation and information centers is included; name and subject indexes comprise the last volume. A unique source for state-of-the-art surveys, and particularly for comparative studies, it should become the standard in the field.

SOCIAL SCIENCES


If these first two excellent volumes are any indication, the Contemporary Problems of Childhood series is one to watch for comprehensive, interdisciplinary coverage of references on a number of issues. Each volume in the series will stress developments over the last decade, including all types of English-language sources: books, journals, conference reports, pamphlets, government documents, dissertations, and proceedings of symposia. Complete annotated citations are arranged in a classified order, with author and keyword subject indexes. Appendices list organizations, audiovisual materials, measurement instruments, or other material relevant to topics covered.


A unique collection of original essays on the basic concepts and recurring issues of American foreign policy (such as Manifest Destiny, the Cold War, peace movements, etc.). Leading scholars in the field who represent varying ideological viewpoints have contributed substantive and readable essays, supplemented with bibliographies. Abundant cross references and a detailed index provide increased access. A biographical appendix embellishes this excellent tool, which should be of great use to students of American history and government.


Exclusive collection of Taiwan, Rhodesia, and China, 114 nations of the Third World were researched for basic facts, location, weather, population, ethnicity, and language, political, economic, educational, military, legal, cultural, and social information is supplied, current as of 1978, with future editions promised. Each entry also incorporates an attractive basic fact section, organizational chart, useful glossary, chronology of events starting in 1945 or at year of independence, a short bibliography of titles since 1970. Comprehensive, well-organized, and convenient, set in large type, with an introduction on relevant international organizations, several valuable appendices, and a good index, this tool will meet the demands placed on libraries for current Third World data.


Historical sketches of nearly 200 national and local voluntary social service agencies and their respective contributions to American social work comprise this useful compilation. Bibliographical notes add references to historical source materials, and appendices list religious affiliated agencies, a chronology by founding dates, agencies by function, and genealogies of mergers and name changes. The concise, readable essays on such groups as the YMCA, Planned Parenthood, Federation of America, or the Fresh Air Fund will be valuable to both public and academic libraries.


Organized like an extensive "pathfinder," this interdisciplinary guide suggests sources and indexes for books, periodical articles, dissertations, nonprint media, and organizations on the subject of divorce, broadly defined to include such related topics as child custody and single-parent families. Special sources of related data, such as legal material and divorce in literature, also surface. Relevant subject headings are suggested for individual reference sources. Besides a checklist of dissertations compiled for this work, particular strengths are the statistical
sections, which provide detailed analyses of state, national, Canadian, and British statistics including data by marital status. Names, title, and subject indexes are provided.


Promoted by the growing exposure of Muslim societies in the media, and the mis-representation and generalizations generated there, Weekes has compiled an impressive group of essays covering the life and culture of all major ethnic groups having a Muslim population in excess of 100,000; they together comprise more than 92 percent of all Muslims. Extensive bibliographies accompany each readable essay, along with maps of the location of the group. Appendices provide statistical breakdowns of Muslim populations by country and ethnic group. A timely reference work for both public and academic libraries.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY


Although the price may be high for some public libraries, this volume, which is a companion to the author's Exotica, is an excellent investment. Along with an index of common scientific names and a bibliography, more than 7000 color photographs of more than 1600 genera of tropical and sub-tropical plants brighten its pages. Arranged alphabetically by family, brief descriptions are given of each plant listed. Other sections supply information on insect and disease control, the indoor care of these plants, and their native habitats.


For the student looking for a starting point on his term paper or a librarian searching for a concise discussion of a problem in such areas as energy, air and water pollution, wastes, or pesticides, this source is a good place to begin. Many of the 259 terms or issues discussed are studded with cross references and literature citations.


As described by its subtitle, this "Illustrated Encyclopedia of Hand and Power Tools from the Ordinary to the Odd-Their History, What They Are Used for, How To Operate and Maintain Them" is unusual. Hundreds of tools are broken down into 31 categories. For example, tools used in the plumbing field are discussed, with a picture of each and instructions on their use. Other categories show tools for auto repair, gardening, leather work, and woodworking. Besides consulting it for reference, many patrons may browse through this volume.


Writing for the amateur repairman, house hunter, or ordinary homeowner who needs information to determine what needs to be done, how to select a home repairman, or how to understand a repair estimate, Krieger divides the house into its various parts. Then, taking such sections as the foundation, roof, or insulation, he discusses the materials used, the techniques employed in building or installing these materials, and terms used for these. Well-illustrated and containing a wealth of information, each chapter will supplement every library's do-it-yourself home repair and construction collection.


For those of us who have ever suffered from a virus, this book gives non-technical information on the history, symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, and therapies for virus-caused diseases. Through the liberal use of cross references and very readable language, plus a good index, the author has provided us with very useful information on this subject.


A valuable addition to any library, this comprehensive, well-illustrated work examines all comestible fresh and saltwater fish available worldwide. Information on where they live, how they are caught, and how they are marketed is a bonus to the culinary art of preparing, cooking, and serving fish. Together with the 352 recipes (even those for butters, sauces, stocks, aspics, and other ways of readying fish) are step-by-step instructions for dressing, stuffing, and filleting both flat and round fish.


Very beautifully illustrated and in large format, these pages cover every aspect of the life history of succulent plants. After an investigation of the evolution, ecology, general life cycle, and classification of the plants, as well as their cultivation both indoors and out, a second section presents the family-by-family review with pictorial keys to main families and a synopsis of each genera. A very complete reference work of one of the most fascinating of the plant groups.
Rotary Files and Rasp

**SIZE:** Shank diameter $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$

**MATERIAL:** Steel

**USE:** To shape and file small areas

These tools are sold singly as well as in sets. The rotary files have fine teeth and can be used on both metal and wood. The coarser rasps should only be used on wood. These files and rasps come in a huge variety of shapes, cut in bastard, second cut, and smooth grades. They are mounted on shafts and are used with a power driven flexible shaft tool (see page 239). Some can fit the chuck of an electric drill.

These tiny, accurate files are particularly useful for modeling work or intricate carving. They can be fitted to the miniature power drill (see page 239). The best tools for carving are called carbies.

Riffers

**OTHER NAMES:** Woodworker’s file, woodcarver’s ruff, key ruff, bone ruff

**SIZE:** 6 to 12 in

**MATERIAL:** Handle, hardwood; Blade, steel

**USE:** For wood carving

Riffers are craftsmen’s tools. They are miniature files, with the same selection of cut, coarseness, and cross section, and are adapted to suit individual needs. Some are double ended, with ruff cut blades at one end and file cut at the other. Some are made fitted with hardwood handles, and are bent at an angle of 45° to reach into the hard-to-get-at places on a woodcarving or sculpture. Diameters have a special set of riffers which are more substantial than woodcarving ritters.

**SPORTS**


This contains well-written articles on the history, development, and rules of each North American competitive sport. Frequently listed are record-holders, winners, and famous individuals. Sports topics as wide-ranging as Women in Sports, Drugs in Sports, and Black Athletes are included. Entries under awards (Curtis cup) or events (Pan-American Games) heighten access. Children’s games are excluded. Ample cross-references, frequent bibliographies, explanatory glossaries, discussion of techniques, statistics, diagrams, photographs, and a directory of associations, organizations, and leagues add to its reference value.


This first of a three-volume set on halls of fame presents detailed information on over 175 sports halls of fame as to location, formation, admission, content, and members installed in them. Divided into chapters, 30 sports, from angling to wrestling, are...
sketched as to their history and organization. Moreover, the dates, sponsors, and primary members of the halls of fame related to that sport are listed. Difficult-to-find biographical data are given on about 8000 inductees; another section deals with those halls of fame which do not single out one sport. Three indexes, by year, name, place, and theme, together with a map showing the location of the halls, offer fine reference approaches.

FINE ARTS


With many libraries building video collections and the growing purchase of video equipment for home use, this first annual publication is a needed and useful guide to programs available for rental and purchase. An index is provided. Distributors, release date, and rental fee, summary of story line or subject matter, audience level, color or black-and-white, running time, and format specifications. Format information is essential because of the variety of incompatible playback equipment on the market. There is also an index of 152 subject categories.


Broadly defined, sculpture includes the visual art and "'handcrafts" as well as heroic monuments and realistic portraiture. This annotated bibliography provides access to the vast wealth of American sculpture found in books, periodicals, and exhibition catalogues. Three main sections exist: general research, history and theory, and individual sculptors (cross references are under first section). The appendix lists institutions holding sculpture collections. The index has included those books that deal specifically with the subject of American sculpture and which would be appropriate in a small, non-specialized library. The guide is useful to any general library collection, even if its holdings on this subject are limited.


The author's Filmgoer's Companion is a standard reference collection. His new work appropriately complements the previous volume by giving essential information rather than the names of people who appear in them. Listed alphabetically by title are 8000 English-language feature films. Entries include running time, date of release, country of origin, production company, color process, writer, director, photographer, composer, principal cast members, a short plot synopsis, and add, for some entries, a critical excerpt. Readers may not always agree with the author's four-star ratings, but the guide offers much comprehensive and entertaining information in one volume.


Including more than 30000 paintings published between 1940 and 1975, this two-volume set provides the means for locating reproductions of paintings from all over the world, but the emphasis here is on those in the Western European tradition. Volume I contains a numbered bibliography, an alphabetical listing by artists of paintings, and a list by title of works whose creators' names are unknown. Volume II is an alphabetical list of paintings by title, giving the artist's name and the place of publication. Many of the titles indexed are already held by libraries. The set may serve as an excellent buying guide.


This scholarly, readable work fills the current need for a single guide to the techniques and materials of research in the visual arts. The 1045 items cited in the clearly written, comprehensive essays that constitute the text represent selectively chosen works of interest to the beginning or the advanced art researcher. Authority is enhanced by logical organization and by the generous use of examples. Access by author, artist, or subject is provided.


With the 1978 golden anniversary of the Oscar, it is difficult to think of a question about the Academy Awards that cannot be answered by this book. Arranged by category and year, all nominees and winners are cross-referenced throughout the book. Some added features make this work especially worthwhile: an explanation of award-giving and voting procedures, an essay on the history of the Academy, an interesting and useful bibliography, and a complete index of names and song and film titles.

LITERATURE


Described and analyzed in this extraordinary compilation are 111 works of juvenile fiction written between 1940 and 1975 that depict characters with handicaps and disabilities. Each chapter contains an introductory essay that precedes the annotated guide is of special interest to educators and librarians who work with young people. There are general comments, as well as complete citations for all works referred to in the body of the compilation.


This is the first volume of a projected series of annual publications of excerpts from criticism of writing by many genres by authors of many nationalities who died between 1900 and 1960, and who are thought to represent those most frequently studied in high school and college courses. No duplication of authors treated exists between this work and Contemporary Literary Criticism, in which articles by contemporary critics were included from January 1, 1961. There is an index to critics.


Readers of Spanish-language literature from the period of 1900 to 1977 will find in this comprehensive reference work a richness of information relating to authors from Spain and Spanish America (including Por
tugal and Brazil), movements, themes, and a variety of other pertinent subjects. The major
ty of the articles present biographical and bibliographical data about authors, including writers of creative, histori
cal, philosophical, and critical works. Most of the Latin American writers are currently living and writing.


Proverbs and phrases used in North America from the early 17th Century to around 1820 are alphabetically arranged by key words as identified by their source and the book in which they are cited. The entries are listed chronologically. The more than 700 source items consist primarily of "workday" writings such as letters, diaries, sermons, travel books, and advertisements. Authors were living in North America at the time of writing. Significant words or concepts not included among the main entries are indexed.

HISTORY & TRAVEL


A well-written, concise guide, this compact volume will be a delight to both the traditional outdoorsman and the new breed of outdoor enthusiast. Major geographical areas of the United States and the Canadian provinces are described, and for each area are given names and addresses of major groups of outfitters (camps, outfitters, guides, etc.) and places (lodges, camps, schools, etc.) through which access to the area can be obtained. Also included are tables of prices, and addresses for purchasing hundreds of regional guidebooks and maps, as well as identifying the U.S. Geological Survey and Canadian National Topographic Survey maps needed to cover every area de
cribed.


The atlas presents population facts in a well organized easy-to-use format. Estimated population figures from 400 B.C. to 2000 A.D. are shown on individual graphs for the world, each continent, major continent subdivisions, and individual countries. A well-written, concise summary of population trends and an evaluative bibliography of primary and secondary sources are included for each country. Bringing together information not readily available elsewhere, this paperback becomes a real bargain for libraries, even though it lacks lasting quality.


Most everything you ever wanted to know about the subject can be found in this compre
hensive compendium of information about World War II. The scope and editorial direction of this well-edited work are international, with entries for persons, places, events, weapons, and concepts. Most of the 4000 entries are short; the more lengthy are signed, and there is an appendix. Bibliography is comprehensive in that it supplements the abundant cross references and more than 200 photographs and excellent detailed maps add to the value of the work.


Using up-to-date methods of visual communication, the Times Atlas covers the flow of world civilization from the origin of man to the present between rich and poor na
tions today. The maps are striking and supple
mented with informative text and occa
sional illustrations. The concept of the dy
namics of history is emphasized by the use of arrows in nearly every map. It is truly an atlas of world history—covering broad interna
tional or multinational movements, not envi
es inside one country.