OUTSTANDING REFERENCE SOURCES: A 1989 SELECTION OF RECENT TITLES

A compilation of distinguished reference titles selected by the Reference Sources Committee of the ALA Reference and Adult Services Division

edited by Linda J. Sammataro

It was a full 30 years ago that a newly constituted committee of ALA's Reference Services Division took over the pioneering work of the great Louis Shores (1904-1981) in compiling an annual list of not-to-be-missed reference books for small and medium-sized public or academic libraries. Today's 10-member Reference Sources Committee, meeting at Midwinter in Washington, D.C., was proud to carry on this tradition and also to break new ground by including for the first time an outstanding CD-ROM product, Compact Disclosure (Disclosure Inc.), a powerful, easy-to-use financial research tool.

Our criteria are almost unchanged from those of Louis Shores and the first committee. We consider annuals, yearbooks, and new printings of encyclopedias only when the first issue appears or there are very important revisions; new editions of monographs are eligible only if significantly changed. Thus De Sola's new Crime Dictionary (rev. ed., Facts On File), the eagerly awaited Beret's Reader's Encyclopedia... (3rd ed., Harper & Row), and the revised Contemporary Dramatists (4th ed., St. James Pr.) have been omitted; the notable Major International Treaties Since 1945: A History and Guide with Texts (Methuen) does not appear on this list because it is reprinted in 1989, some 1987 titles published or reviewed too late for last year's list are included here. In the special case of database and CD-ROM products, the committee took an extra year to acquire a thorough overview of this technology, learn how it's being used in libraries, and identify vendors and their products. Our review was guided by criteria recently revised and approved by the RASD Board. Reference works in all nonprint and electronic formats are considered, as long as they are generally available to small and medium-sized public and college libraries, meet technical standards, and do more than simply duplicate another format. As with print sources, cost is not a factor in our evaluations.

Since this compilation is not intended for large research libraries, some impressive but specialized works—for example, A Women's Thesaurus: An Index of Language Used to Describe and Locate Information and about Women (Harper & Row)—were judged out of our scope, regardless of their excellence.

As Louis Shores noted 31 years ago in "Reference Checklist '57," the predecessor of this annual article, there is often a shortage of children's reference books, although they are eligible for this list, they have appeared rather infrequently in recent years. However, several of the titles selected this January are lavishly illustrated and would be especially fascinating to young adults for either leisurely browsing or term paper research: for instance, The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language (Cambridge), A Dictionary of Heraldry

The last authenticated sighting of Hawaii's Moa'oi o'o occurred in 1904, according to Extinct Birds by Errol Fuller, published by Facts On File. The above hand-colored lithograph by J. G. Keulemans is reprinted with the permission of Facts On File/Rainbird Publishing Group, Ltd.

Linda J. Sammataro is assistant professor and reference librarian at the University of Tennessee/Knoxville Hodges Library. She has chaired the Reference Sources Committee for two years.
Enjoying a break in their selection of the 1989 outstanding reference sources at ALA's Midwinter Meeting in Washington D.C., are, from left to right (standing), Sarah Watstein, Deborah Thomas, Judy Quinlan, Marlene Kuhl, Mary Miller, Barbara Wurtzel, Susan Cohen. Seated are Mary Larson, Chair Linda Sammataro, and Jack O’Gorman. (AL staff photo.)

(Harmony/Crown), and Extinct Birds (Facts On File).

There is no attempt to balance subject coverage or select a particular number of titles. This year’s short and select list leans somewhat toward the social sciences (12 titles) and humanities (10 titles), with only seven science books. The works chosen range from the topical and pragmatically useful, such as AIDS Information Sourcebook (Oryx), the looseleaf Hazardous Chemicals on File (Facts On File), and The State-by-State Guide to Women’s Legal Rights (McGraw-Hill), all indispensable for public libraries; to the scholarly three-volume Encyclopedia of the American Religious Experience: Studies of Traditions and Movements (Scribner) and the landmark four-volume New Palgrave: A Dictionary of Economics (Stockton), of vital importance for academic institutions. Other outstanding new encyclopedias on this list cover both the liberal arts—political thought and political institutions, architecture, education, and mythology—and the scientific and technical areas of geology, ornithology, artificial intelligence, and paleoanthropology.

Some of the most distinctive titles are the delightful Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things (Perennial Library/Harper & Row); The Library: A Guide to the LDS Family History Library (Ancestry Pub.), which describes the largest genealogical collection in the world, the Latter Day Saints Library in Salt Lake City; and We the People: An Atlas of America’s Ethnic Diversity (Macmillan), which is also this year’s winner of the prestigious Dartmouth Medal for “reference works outstanding in quality and significance.”

Members of the 1988–89 Reference Sources Committee were: Susan K. Cohen, Westfield Memorial Library, N.J.; Marlene Kuhl, Baltimore County Public Library, Md.; Mary Larson, Concordia College Library, Moorhead, Minn.; Mary J. Miller, Akron–Summit County Public Library, Ohio; Jack O’Gorman, Softech, Inc., Fairborn, Ohio; Judith B. Quinlan, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens; Sarah B. Watstein, CLR intern, Homer Babbidge Library, University of Connecticut, Storrs, on leave from Hunter College Library, New York, NY; Barbara S. Wurtzel, Springfield (Mass.) Technical Community College Library; Deborah Thomas, intern, University of North Carolina at Asheville Library; and serving as chair, Linda J. Sammataro, Hodges Library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

“Outstanding Reference Sources: A 1989 Selection of Recent Titles” will be displayed at the RASD booth during the ALA Annual Conference in Dallas. Following the conference, interested groups may borrow this distinguished collection for exhibits at regional, state, or local meetings for the cost of transportation. For further information, contact Andrew Hansen, Executive Director, RASD, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Notes


The fact that “theology is the discipline Jewish eschew while nonetheless pursuing it with covert avidity” is reflected in the three “definition-essays” on all aspects of post–World War II Jewish religious thought. The 140 alphabetically arranged essays by North American, European, and Israeli writers represent all ideologies and shed new light on such basic topics as commandments, the Holocaust, I and Thou, love, and Zionism. References and bibliography complete each article. A comprehensive index, glossary, and appendices listing abbreviations and biographical information for all 100 contributors conclude this definitive sourcebook, which should accompany its prototype, the Handbook of Christian Theology... (Meridian, 1958) on every reference shelf.


Religion has been a major influence on, and been influenced by, North American society and culture since the beginning of its history. This set of 106 specially commissioned essays by Martin Marty, Jaroslav Pelikan, and over 100 others represents the best current scholarship in the field, written without jargon for general readers and students. The nine thematic sections include cross-disciplinary approaches to American religion: articles on all major denominations and the Eastern religions in this country; indigenous movements; religious thought and the arts; and political and social issues. The individual essays conclude with extensive bibliographies and are linked by cross-references. An alphabetical list of articles, contributor list, and exhaustive index add to the value of this superb three-volume reader, a worthy addition to Scribner’s American Civilization series.

The Facts On File Encyclopedia of World

Not just another dictionary of mythology, this comprehensive work includes myths and legends worldwide—not only classical Greek and Roman but also Egyptian, Celtic, Babylonian, Norse, Japanese, and Siberian tales; Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu sacred texts; Christian hagiography; Aesop's fables, Grimm's fairy tales, and American folklore. Following the enlightening introduction that differentiates myth, legend, fable, folklore, and fairy tale are over 3,200 individual entries, ranging from a few lines to a few pages, with over 450 illustrative line drawings. In addition to definition and discussion of key elements of the myth or legend, the derivative works of Western art, literature, and music are described. There is a detailed general index, cultural and ethnic index, key to variant spellings of names, and annotated bibliography divided by culture. This volume should complement every mythology collection.


The “national psychologies” of 29 countries and Black Africa are candidly described in this scholarly but readable compendium. The editors begin with a particularly fine introductory overview and historical perspective of psychology throughout the world, complete with discussion of influential works and a long reference list. Each section on a country is signed by one or more authority on that region and covers history, educational programs, funding, developments in research, and progress in psychology since World War II. Numerous tables and figures illustrate research interests, publishing trends, employment, and funding in psychology, while references and suggested readings enrich each section. There are separate name and subject indexes, followed by biographical information and addresses for all contributors. This significant work should help to counteract ethnocentric tendencies in all academic libraries.

Evaluating the artistry in jade carving, such as the two-inch-high owl at left, makes jade a very specialized gemstone and the market a collector market, says Joel E. Arem, author of Color Encyclopedia of Gemstones. The Cambodian zircons, right, weigh approx. 25 and 40 carats. Photos reproduced with the permission of Van Nostrand Reinhold Company.

Social sciences


Blackwell has produced two handsome, compact, and readable volumes treating the broad areas of political thought and institutions. Both employ the same format—alphabetical arrangement of signed articles, from a paragraph to several pages long, each followed by a current bibliography, with excellent cross-references and detailed index—but they differ in purpose and consequently in approach.

The Encyclopedia of Political Thought is designed as “a reliable guide to major ideas and doctrines that influence the contemporary world.” Its 350 entries mainly cover political concepts, theories, and movements, but many are biographies of political theorists or those whose work has had political significance, mostly in the West.

The Encyclopedia of Political Institutions is “a succinct guide to the central concepts used in the study of political institutions of advanced industrial societies, the principal political organizations and movements in these societies and the main types of political community.” With over 525 entries by 247 contributors from Western countries. The emphasis in this volume is strongly on definitions and concepts, such as fascism, habeas corpus, and political action committees. Only 15 percent of the entries are biographical. No living political scientists are included. The 80 or so articles common to both volumes are complementary: for example, the Cicero article in Political Thought is biographical, discussing his life, work, and theories, while Political Institutions briefly explains the relationship of his work to the government of Rome and how it affected future governments. Students and general readers will need both these books to find clear, concise definitions and explanations in the area of political science.

Anyone involved with or studying leadership in the schools needs this volume, which provides summary information about theories, issues, trends, and concepts ranging from central office personnel to facilities planning, from career education to teacher stress and burnout. The nearly 300 alphabetically arranged, signed articles were prepared by over 200 education experts, writing in clear, nontechnical language. Cross-references and a brief bibliography follow most entries. An excellent index and a "Guide to Related Topics," which groups articles into 20 broad categories, serve to unify the material. This desktop reference should prove to be invaluable as the profession and practice of education become increasingly complex.


This carefully researched and organized collection of curious beginnings is a delight to read. Surprisingly broad in scope, it explores the history of over 500 things, from superstitions, magazines, games, and holidays to household objects such as Kleenex, buttons, graham crackers, and wallpaper. If you want to know about the real Dr. Scholl or Duncan Hines (not to mention Dr. Condom), just check the index. Everyone will enjoy the many quaint illustrations, and serious researchers will appreciate the references in the 20-page bibliographic essay, which is organized according to the book's 36 chapters. Since this is fun to browse through as well as necessary for reference, many libraries will want two copies.


Timely, well-written, and useful, this guide explains both the structure and the substance of human rights literature, especially in its legal and comparative aspects. Part I contains five chapters giving an overview of human rights history and treaties, with references to Part II, a selectively annotated bibliography including treaties, law reports, international documents, reference works, periodicals, and other bibliographies. Part III describes governmental and nongovernmental international organizations involved in the legal protection of rights. Well-organized and indexed by author, title, subject, and organization, the Keyguide is an indispensable sourcebook for any reader interested in this critical topic.


The first volume in The Last Quarter Century, an ALA series of research guides on major social issues, concerns the most pressing issue of all. The Nuclear Arms Race is a straightforward, unbiased introduction to the subject. Part 1 discusses the historical background of the arms race, Part 2 the probability and consequences of nuclear war, and Part 3 the debate over terrence. The eight individual chapters include relevant charts and tables and are followed by substantial annotations of key sources and citations to other texts. The extensive appendix constitutes a comprehensive guide to research in the field. A four-page glossary, and author-title and subject indexes conclude the work. Since nuclear war is a topic of utmost concern, all libraries will want to own this title.


This convenient volume provides both a historical overview of women's improving legal status in the family, education, employment, and the community, and also a guide to law by state in each of these four areas. Statutory and case citations accompany the clear and understandable summaries of today's laws. Subjects covered under each area are diverse: for example, under "Women in the Community" one finds rape, battering, pornography, fair insurance practices law, housing, and other issues. Concise appendices list factors considered by courts in divorce and custody, and also lists regional civil rights offices, followed by further readings. No library should be without such basic legal information.


In the brochure "Understanding AIDS," Surgeon General Koop asserts that "it is important that you have the best information available for fighting the AIDS virus."

* Dartmouth medal winner

**Science and technology**


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WE THE PEOPLE

An Atlas of America's Ethnic Diversity

This atlas (1988 Macmillan Publishing Co.) shows the distribution of 67 ethnic groups.

This comprehensive directory and sourcebook includes a month-by-month chronology of AIDS-related events from 1981 to 1987; descriptions of U.S. and Canadian educational or counseling programs, research and testing facilities, and hotlines; a selective, briefly annotated bibliography of 737 articles, books, films, periodicals (including newsletters), and two plays dealing with AIDS; and subject and organizational indexes. Such a reference source is crucially important and contains access to the information that the Surgeon General has prescribed for the American public; and indeed "Compassion empowered with knowledge can achieve miracles."


This volume is a treasury of basic information on each of the 646 species of birds in North America, enriched by 250 short essays on all aspects of avian behavior and biology. This book is a companion volume to any illustrated field guide. Left-hand pages feature entries on individual species (arranged by common name as in Field Guide to the Birds of North America, National Geographic Society, 1987), complete with the scientific name and its author, and references to plates in field guides. Right-hand pages contain the authoritative essays, which appear near their subject birds; they are cross-referenced to each other and listed together at the end of the book.

A summary line beginning each species entry includes easily recognized symbols to provide basic information on nest location and type, diet, and foraging techniques. Appendices cover related matters such as Hawaiian birds and passerine classification. There is a 60-page bibliography, "Index to North American Birds," and a fine subject index. A must buy for any birding collection.


The standard reference work on gems and gemology for the last decade has now appeared in a new, even better form with the inclusion of such increasingly popular topics as synthetic gems, a detailed analysis of scientific color grading and testing, and information on the thermal properties of gems as "diagnostic tools"—for instance, to distinguish diamond from cubic zirconia. Aside from these more general chapters is the alphabetical list of 250 gem species, including occurrence, descriptive and historical comments, and technical data. A bibliography and index by gem name and subject are provided. Perhaps the highlight of this work, however, is the set of 300 glorious full-color photographs of every stone from amber to zircon, from uncut form to jewelry. For every library serving students or collectors.


Ever since digital computers were develop-
op ed, scientists have been trying to make them act in ways that model human intelligence—thus the term “artificial intelligence” (AI). This is the first encyclopedia to summarize the development of AI and clarify its scope, with over 260 alphabetically arranged articles, written and refereed by active researchers, on such subjects as Bayesian decision methods, expert systems, heuristics, and social issues of AI. General articles such as “Limits of AI” contain arguments from philosophy, psychology, and neurophysiology; biographies are excluded. There are over 450 illustrative tables and figures, a bibliography for each article, and an abbreviation list. A single comprehensive index of subjects, names, and computer systems, along with ample cross-references, provides easy access. A landmark source, this will be used by both computer scientists and those in other fields.


Experts wax enthusiastic about topics ranging from Adaptation(s) to Zuttiyeh (a cave site) and demonstrate a willingness to explore alternative interpretations of data at levels ranging from general to technical. The alphabetical arrangement is preceded by detailed categorization of all 1,200 articles by subject, and the many charts, maps, drawings, and photos are models of clarity. Biographies of major past figures in paleoanthropology and archaeology such as the Leakeys and Teilhard de Chardin are included. The authoritative contributors present all major points of view and are careful not to talk down to their intended audience. Cross-references leave little to chance, and the “Further Readings” reflect current thought. Appropriately enough, the book was published on 250-year life acid-free paper. This first comprehensive encyclopedia for the controversial field of evolution is indispensable for small and medium-sized libraries.


A shocking 94 percent of all bird species that ever existed are gone forever. This is the first book devoted solely to those extinct after 1600 since Walter Rothschild's classic *Extinct Birds* in 1907. Fuller’s lavish work is complete with 59 superb color illustrations and 81 black-and-white lithographs and drawings of the likes of the dodo and the elephant bird. Entries on the 75 once-common species, mostly from Pacific islands (arranged as in *A Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World*, Oxford University Press, 1980), include historical as well as technical information, based on study of skeletal remains and fascinating eyewitness accounts by contemporaries of Audubon and Captain Cook. The inclusion of information on endangered species, an index by both Latin and common name, and a selective bibliography add to the value of the volume. An excellent source for bird lovers, students, and anyone who appreciates magnificent wildlife illustrations.


Traditionally librarians and patrons seeking basic, up-to-date information on a particular hazardous substance would wander through a confusing maze of NIOSH, OSHA, and EPA publications and regulations. Now, thanks to this new use of the Facts On File looseleaf format, authoritative information is easy to find, photocopy, and update for the over 380 chemicals covered by federal regulations. An informative 28-page introduction,

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ALANET American Library Association 50 East Huron Street Chicago, IL 60611
which includes a directory of OSHA and EPA regional offices, precedes the alphabetical arrangement of substances. For each one, the current permissible exposure limit, monitoring and measurement recommendations, medical procedures, personnel protection, and waste disposal methods are succinctly explained in lay language. An index concludes vol. 3. This is a reference tool of great practical value in an area of continuing and vital interest to all.

**Business and economics**


Imagine that your library has a database of very detailed financial and management information excerpted from reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission—enough to fill 1,500 floppy disks—for 12,000 publicly held companies with at least $5 million in assets and 500 shareholders. Then imagine patrons can search without your help in either an “Easy Menu” or well-thought-out “Dialog Emulation” mode, and can manipulate 256 data elements from the company résumé, ratios, balance sheets, etc. to create customized reports.

Now imagine that this information is on a microcomputer with standard hardware configuration, good data integrity and the ability to print or download to spreadsheet or word-processing software. This is *Compact Disclosure*—a model of easy accessibility, an elegant corporate reference tool, and a godsend for business people, investors, job-seekers, and researchers.


This new classic does great honor to its illustrious 1890s predecessor, Sir R.H. Inglis Palgrave’s *Dictionary of Political Economy*: Over 900 top-notch contributors from 30 countries—often espousing opposing views in multiple, similar entries—have written over 1,900 signed, encyclopedia-length articles that thoroughly document technical economic theories. Fifty classic entries are reprinted from the original Palgrave’s and so noted. The alphabetically arranged articles cover traditional topics, mathematical economics, new areas such as environmental law and game theory, and biographies of 655 important economists and politicians, all either deceased or born before 1916. Equations, diagrams, or graphs accompany some articles, and almost all are cross-referenced and have up-to-date bibliographies. Appended are lists of entries by author, a classified subject guide, and excellent 35-page index. *Palgrave* is absolutely essential for serious students of economics.

**Genealogy and heraldry**


Concise explanations of both the traditional terms of heraldry and armory and vernacular usages such as in airline crests, postage stamps, and trademarks can be found in this attractive and definitive dictionary. More than 30 distinguished ex-

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*Auckland Islands mergansers had a habit of concealing themselves among rocks instead of diving when pursued—perhaps a clue to their extinction*, says Errol Fuller in *Extinct Birds*, published by Facts On File. This hand-colored lithograph by J.G. Keulemans is reprinted with the permission of Facts On File/Rainbird Publishing Group, Ltd.
Reference sources


The Family History Library (FHL) of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City houses the largest collection of genealogical works in one location. Historians and genealogists, both amateur and professional, will find this book essential in understanding and accessing these rich resources. The first section introduces the library system (which has hundreds of branches worldwide) and explains how materials are gathered and classified, and what services the FHL offers. Subsequent chapters on the nine U.S. regions explain the kinds of records available for each state, with charts detailing exactly which of 35 categories of records are held for each county. Fourteen foreign regions, from Canada to the South Pacific, are also covered. Appendix A, describing "100 Genealogical Reference Works on Microfiche," precedes an index which includes all named authors, titles, and subjects. A truly unique and superlative work.

Language, literature, and the arts


When Bogle tells us that "black audiences also long for Prissy to slap Scarlett back," the reader knows this is no dull, merely descriptive encyclopedia. In a lively and candid style—punctuated by wonderful movie and TV stills and photographs of the stars—the author offers insightful interpretations as well as synopses of the many roles blacks have played. Black-oriented movies since Birth of a Nation, excluding only documentaries and foreign films; TV series since 'Amos 'n Andy'; and TV movies, mini-series, or specials are described, complete with production credits, followed by a separate section of critical profiles of black actors, actresses, and directors. Excellent historical essays on the evolution of black characters begin the movie and television sections. The index includes personal names, titles, networks, and production companies. This is a major, long overdue contribution to our understanding of African-Americans in the media. For all libraries.


Every aspect of language—its structure and use, speech, reading, writing, language rights, artificial language, and much more—is covered in this remarkable, lucid encyclopedia. The work is arranged thematically with nine parts, comprising 65 cross-referenced sections and hundreds of photographs, portraits, diagrams, maps, language jokes, and boxed tidbits of information. Appendices offer a 20-page glossary, abbreviations and symbols, table of languages, further reading, references, and separate indexes by languages, authors, and topics. Crystal is a descriptive linguist and this work is a scholarly summary of current and historical knowledge and research on the languages of the world, presented in an attractive, eminently usable, and fascinating package appropriate for all levels of use.


Sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and written and reviewed by 500 experts, this comprehensive encyclopedia is an outstanding example of a much-needed reference work. The 500 topics, covered alphabetically, are timely (day-care centers, handicapped access laws and codes), biographical (Charles Bullfinch, R. Buckminster Fuller), and practical (fireplaces, electrical principles) as well as historical and artistic, stressing the last 200 years of Western architecture. The signed articles average 10 pages in length, closing with cross-references and bibliography. A copious variety of well-chosen photos, tables, and drawings enhance nearly every article. The index will appear in vol. 5, but each volume of approximately 800 pages does list its own contents, followed by conversion factors and abbreviations. A wide-ranging audience from the do-it-yourselfer to the professional will applaud the completion of this superb set in late 1989.


Once upon a time, there was a patron who wanted to find other stories with the same plot as "Rip Van Winkle." After seeking near and far, the patron came upon a helpful librarian, who quickly pulled out A Guide to Folktales... which revises Stith Thompson's numerical system and descriptions of 2,500 basic plots. Using the easy thematic index with its title or keyword structure (rather than the more general chapter headings which group tales by type), the librarian found the classification number; then the entry "766 The Magic Sleep" provided a plot summary, cross-reference, and bibliographic references to 22 similar tales. The lists of secondary sources, folktale collections in print, and all 210 Grimm stories with classification numbers, found at the end of the book, greatly pleased the librarian. Patron and librarian lived happily ever after, especially since the book was printed on acid-free paper! The end.


Thought-provoking essays, author bibliographies, and selectively annotated lists of critical and biographical materials combine to make this a versatile source. These 84 writers of children's classics from the 17th through the early 20th centuries are primarily British and American, but Hans Christian Andersen, the Grimm brothers, Jules Verne, and other Europeans are included. William Blake, Langston Hughes, Oscar Wilde, and others who wrote mostly for adults are also found here. The 4-10-page critical essays reflect an interesting diversity of approaches, often delving into relevant social, political, aesthetic, and moral issues. There is an index to all works and people referred to in the text, and credentials of the 64 contributors are provided. Like other Scribner titles such as American Writers and British Writers, this important source will be heavily used by both students and browsers.