OUTSTANDING REFERENCE SOURCES: A 1990 selection of recent titles

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

written by Sarah B. Watstein

The Plethora of Reference sources examined yearly by reference librarians results, inevitably and increasingly, in frustration. Compilers of these sources all believe they can make a difference! Distinguishing titles from their respective complements, if any, requires that reference librarians review the source’s authority, scope, utility, and format. Distinguishing one competing title from another also requires asking several questions. Which sources fill bibliographic gaps in our reference collections? Which sources really break new ground? Which sources are truly unique? How expertly does the book in one’s hand fulfill its purpose and meet its goal?

The Reference Sources Committee hereby goes on record to say that reference publishing is indeed alive and well. Members examined approximately 800 titles in their assigned areas.

Identifying trends in reference publishing is a bit like Lewis Carroll’s description of hunting the snark—both endeavors lead to futility and near insanity. Steady oneself among the dizzying array of choices to satisfy the requirements of users who need to consult reference resources, one might identify trends by the number of recently published reference tools for literary criticism, by the range of new and unusual atlases, by the dazzling selection of sports resources, or the continuing output of reference books on the Bible. Taking a deep breath, one might also identify trends by

Sarah B. Watstein is an associate professor and acting chief librarian at Hunter College, CUNY Library. Prior to assuming the “acting” post, she headed the library’s reference division. Watstein’s publications include, with Martin Kesselman, End-User Searching in Libraries (American Library Association, 1988) and the forthcoming Women and AIDS; A Sourcebook Documenting the Undocumented (Oryx, 1990).

Essays, photos, and charts punctuate this dictionary of entries on the ailing environment.

Selection criteria

The committee’s Policy and Procedure Manual governs both the work of the committee and the preparation of the annual list of outstanding reference sources. A section of this Manual, “Selection Criteria for the RASD Reference Sources Committee,” provides for including both print and nonprint reference sources, such as microforms, online databases, and optical media.

The “Selection Criteria” address the conventional definition of a reference source—stated in part as “usually comprehensive in scope, condensed in treatment, and arranged on some special plan to facilitate the ready and accurate finding of information…”—and the audience for whom the list is prepared. The criteria provide guidelines for when to include annuals, yearbooks, new printings of encyclopedias, new editions, new volumes of incomplete sets whose publication began in earlier years, and spin-offs. The “Selection Criteria” also provide guidelines for

The American Library Association
Selection Committee
HAS CHOSEN

Critical Survey of
Mystery and Detective
Fiction
TO RECEIVE THE

OUTSTANDING
REFERENCE
SOURCE
AWARD
1989

Be sure your library has these other series in
The Critical Survey Collection.
CRITICAL SURVEY OF SHORT FICTION
☆ Outstanding Reference Source Award, 1981
CRITICAL SURVEY OF POETRY, English Language Series
☆ Outstanding Reference Source Award, 1983
CRITICAL SURVEY OF POETRY, Foreign Language Series
CRITICAL SURVEY OF LONG FICTION, English Language Series
☆ Outstanding Reference Source Award, 1984
CRITICAL SURVEY OF LONG FICTION, Foreign Language Series
CRITICAL SURVEY OF DRAMA, English Language Series
CRITICAL SURVEY OF DRAMA, Foreign Language Series
CRITICAL SURVEY OF LITERARY THEORY
CRITICAL SURVEY OF MYSTERY AND DETECTIVE FICTION
☆ Outstanding Reference Source Award, 1989
CRITICAL SURVEY SUPPLEMENTS, All Genre

Salem Press
MAGILL BOOKS
INC.
580 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632
1-800-221-1592 In NJ: 201-871-3700 FAX: 201-871-8668

1990 Reference sources
when to exclude pamphlets, reference works of purely local scope, highly specialized and foreign language publications and narrow "how to do it" publications.

Notable omissions
Notable titles that have been omitted fall into three categories, as follows.
First, some important recent titles have been omitted from the 1990 list because they are new editions of old standards. Examples of such "new" "old chestnuts" include: The Broadcast Communications Dictionary, 3d ed.; the Encyclopedia of Pop, Rock and Soul; the 9th edition of The Columbia Granger's Index to Poetry; The Great Song Thesaurus, 2d ed.; the 9th edition of Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion; Handbook of American Popular Culture; McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms, 4th ed.; The New Everyday Dictionary of Music; the Oxford Companion to Classical Literature, 2d ed.; Roget's II: The New Thesaurus; and the 13th edition of The Readers' Advisor.
Second, long-standing reference sources that have proven their utility in our reference departments and that have changed significantly or benefited from admirable updating include: The Canadian Encyclopedia, 2d ed.; the Continuum Dictionary of Women's Biography; Music Reference and Research Materials: An Annotated Bibliography, 4th ed.; The New Electronic Encyclopedia; and Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory, 1988-89; Now Including Irregular Serials & Annuals.

As a final prefatory remark to the 1990 list, it is important to note several sources that promise to be major research tools. Examples include: Cities of the United States; Compton's Multimedia Encyclopedia; the Magill Survey of Science series (The Space Exploration Series is currently available); Opera Annual: U.S. 1984-85; and Pe-
A profile of 1990's list

The 1990 list is almost equally strong in culture and civilization, humanities and the arts, and sciences and medicine. General works and titles in the social sciences are less strong, but only slightly so. The 36-title 1990 list is 10 titles larger than each of the previous two years.

The committee believes these selections constitute essential additions for small and medium-sized public or academic libraries.

Twenty-one nonprint reference sources were seriously considered. None, however, met the committee's three requirements: fulfilling criteria used to select sources for inclusion in the annual list; general availability to small and medium-sized public and academic libraries; and unique availability in nonprint format or accessibility to information otherwise unavailable. The 1990 list does not include any microforms, online databases, or optical media.

The 1990 list includes 15 titles from 1989 and 21 titles from 1988. The "Selection Criteria" advise that items included should have been published in the year under consideration, while nonetheless recognizing that items from the previous year can be treated in subsequent lists. Our criteria allow the list to be timely, to reflect publishing realities and idiosyncrasies, and to complement committee work flow and deadlines.

Bringing diverse subject expertise and experience in various types of libraries, members of the Reference Sources Committee included: Susan K. Cohen, Westfield (N.J.) Memorial Library; Marlene Kuhl, Baltimore County Public Library, Catonsville Area Branch, Md.; Mary E. Larson, Concordia College Library, Moorhead, Minn.; Mary J. Miller, Green Branch Library, Akron, Ohio; Jack O'Gorman, SoFtech, Inc., Fairborn, Ohio; Linda J. Sammarato, University of Tennessee Undergraduate Library, Knoxville; Deborah L. Thomas, University of North Carolina at Asheville Library; Barbara Wurtzel, Springfield (Mass.) Technical Community College Library; and Sarah Barbara Waite, Hunter College/CUNY Library, New York, NY. Scott Kennedy, University of Connecticut, was the intern; and Marie Ellis, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, the liaison from Reference Books Bulletin.

The "Outstanding Reference Sources of 1990" will be on display at the Reference and Adult Services Division booth during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. After the conference the books will be available for loan to any interested group for exhibits at regional, state, or local meetings for the cost of transportation. For further information, those interested are encouraged to contact Andrew Hansen, executive director, Reference and Adult Services Division, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Even cat-lovers soften before the Basset Hound's sad-eyed expression and sluggish ways, but The Atlas of Dog Breeds of the World explains the breed is a keen trailer of rabbits and coons; reproduced with the permission of T.F.H. Publications.

General


While our national parks belong to our nation, access to some parks is only for the able-bodied. Those of us with differing levels of ability face disappointments, frustrations, and sometimes barriers when trying to enjoy our parklands. Here potential visitors may explore park visits, and find information for personal issues. Included is data for 37 national parks, such as weather, transportation, altitude, safety, sign language programs, TDD capabilities, guide dog regulations, and campground information. Highway and in-park maps and the basic facilities charts that conclude each chapter are helpful. The appendix lists dialysis programs, independent living centers, and hospitals. Access America is spiral bound. It makes a significant contribution to the barrier removal effort.


Here's the pitch, it's a clothesline over the head of the shortstop, looks like a two-bagger, no, the outfielder rifles the pellet to the second sacker and he's... Baseball is an intensely verbal sport with a long tradi-
The Dickson Baseball Dictionary

5,000 TERMS USED BY PLAYERS, THE PRESS AND PEOPLE WHO LOVE THE GAME

Edited and compiled by PAUL DICKSON

The intensely verbal sport of baseball comes to life as Paul Dickson documents the etymology, and usage of its colorful terms; reprinted with the permission of Facts on File.

The inclusion of facsimile pages and statistical data help gives authority to the descriptive commentary. This is a well-planned book and will serve not only those librarians who are interested in developing their own collections but also individuals who need advice on which sources are best for their personal needs. This is recommended as a superb collection building tool.


This four-volume set is indispensable for all reference collections embracing the field of communications science. Over six years in the making, this combined effort of hundreds of international scholars is not only one of the most significant publications of the year, it is also one of the most attractive. Beautifully printed, artistically designed, and superbly illustrated, this authoritative encyclopedia offers in-depth analyses of all aspects of communication from advertising and politics to folklore and theater. It seeks to bring to light what is meant by the term “communications revolution” by giving emphasis to the interplay between human communication and human society throughout history. The approximately 500 signed articles are arranged alphabetically; a select bibliography of significant studies follows each article. Cross references are prevalent. A solid index and a separate topical guide improve the overall usefulness of the set. The International Encyclopedia of Communications is truly a magnificent work.


Do you want to write to your favorite tennis star? Does your spouse want to go to a baseball fantasy camp? Find these addresses—and many more—in this Sports Address Book. Over 50 sports are included with addresses for major U.S., Canadian, and international organizations, teams, individuals, publications, and camps. Besides the obvious major sports, others such as orienteering, korfbal, and sled dog racing are included. College sports organizations and conferences, fantasy camps and tours, Halls of Fame, handicapped-sports organizations, sports agendas, media, and sports medicine clinics are also listed. This source is essential for most academic, public, and school libraries.

Walter Brennan's Complete Encyclopedia of

One of the first biographical guides to the nursing profession, this volume provides much-needed historical information about 177 nurses, most born before 1890. Each subject is described in a formalized two-page signed entry, noting contributions to the profession, personal history, and a bibliography if applicable. Because the essays reveal something of what it was like to be a working woman during the rapid social changes of the time, American Nursing will be of interest not only to the nursing profession, but also to historians of labor, women, science, and medicine.


A number of excellent chronologies have been published recently in the science field. Asimov's offers an important twist: Along with accurate accessible information on landmark scientific events, the author has placed these achievements in the context of concurrent social, political, and cultural events. Included in an "In Addition" section at the end of each year's entry or entries, this information enhances the researcher's understanding of a particular scientific breakthrough, demonstrating not only the positive effects the advance or discovery had on our world but the reverse as well. Also included is a quick reference timetable of over 4,000 years of discovery and an excellent index. Emanently readable prose, ease of use, and proper placing of an event in historical context add up to a much-used reference source for both students and library staff.


A dog-lover's delight, this is an impressive compilation of the history and development of some 400 breeds of dogs, whether recognized by the American Kennel Club or not. Lengthy descriptions note each breed's personality, size, coat type, and origin in a breezy, informal style. Reference librarians will appreciate the inclusion of many obscure breeds, and the excellent, large-color photographs of both puppies and adult dogs, sometimes several of a single breed. This is a wonderful volume which will prove immediately useful to reference librarians and will encourage browsing by just about everyone.


Ethology, the scientific study of animal behavior, is a relatively young discipline. However, it has already developed a vast array of technical terms which, if worthwhile synthesis is to take place, need precise and explicit definition. A Dictionary of Ethology by Klaus Immelmann and Colin Beer is designed with this purpose in mind. Based on three predecessor volumes written in German by Immelmann alone, this new English-language dictionary is both larger and more comprehensive than the previous versions. Over 600 terms are arranged alphabetically and supplied with numerous cross references. Terms range from the familiar "imprinting" to the more technical "indi-
Among the texts from the library of King Ashurbanipal (668–627 B.C.E.) was this fragment from the Gilgamesh Epic in Akkadian cuneiform script pictured in the International Encyclopedia of Communications (Oxford University Press).

Rect spermatophore transmission.” They are clearly defined, explicated, and then illustrated by specific examples. A bibliography concludes the book. The dictionary is a model of lucidity in a field whose language is prone both to excessive jargon and to anthropomorphic connotation. Solidly bound and printed on acid-free paper, Dr. Burgess's Atlas of Marine Aquarium Fishes, by Warren E. Burgess and others. 736p. Neptune City, N.J.: T.F.H. Publications, 1988 (0-86622-896-9), $59.95.

Just what is that strange-looking red, white, and black fish with yellow spots swimming about in your marine aquarium? At long last, the salt-water equivalent to Dr. Axelrod's Atlas of Freshwater Fishes is here to provide the answer. This welcome addition to both reference and circulating shelves is designed as a pictorial aid to fish identification. Included are over 4,000 photographs, 560 colorplates, and an aquatic section on marine fish aquarium maintenance. Drs. Burgess and Axelrod are recognized as “the” names in aquarium fish books, and the availability of this new marine fish identification guide is good news indeed.

The Earth Report: The Essential Guide to Global Ecological Issues, by Edward Goldsmith and Nicholas Hildyard. 240p. Los Angeles: Price Stern Sloan, 1988 (0-89586-673-0), $19.95; (0-89586-678-1) $12.95, pap. Earth Day 1990 has reminded us again of the fragility of our environment. This handbook examines the major ecological issues, in each case explaining the problem and what could be—and what is being—done. The major part of the book is a dictionary of entries on everything environmental from “acceptable daily intake (ADI)” to “zero population growth.” Well-written and easily understandable, the articles are enhanced by excellent charts and graphs and cross-references. In addition, six essays discuss more thoroughly such important concerns as drinking water, acid rain, and James Lovelock's theory of earth as Gaia, a living system. The handbook includes an index and a list of international environmental organizations. This source is essential for everyone, and libraries may desire both reference and circulating copies.


(Reference sources cont. on p. 452.)
Everything from the earthrise on the cover to this beautiful Lapageria rosea, a leafy shoot with solitary axillary flowers, enhance the pages of the Marshall Cavendish Illustrated Encyclopedia of Plants and Earth Sciences. Lapageria rosea are evergreen climbers belonging to the lily family.

The ecological interrelationship of earth science and plant science is emphasized in this visually striking 10-volume work. The encyclopedia features a “Dictionary of Plants”; “Flowering Plant Families,” “Plant Ecology,” and “Earth Sciences” sections; an entire volume of indexes, glossary, and bibliographies. Accessibility here is excellent due to numerous cross references, the over 5,000-entry alphabetical index, and a fourteen-section thematic index. The vast array of beautiful color photographs, drawings, diagrams, and charts enhances the usefulness of the set. Boasting over 120 expert contributors, this unique work encourages the understanding of plant life’s part in the framework of the plant as a whole. The work should prove an invaluable resource for both high school and undergraduate science researchers.


Eighty-four inexpensive, innovative, reproducible experiments in the categories of earth science, biology, physical science/chemistry, and physics are included in this latest offering in standard loose-leaf, Facts on File format. Each experiment includes introductions, time and materials needed, safety precautions, procedures, and analysis. Helpful appendices recommend grade levels, time constraints, number of participants, and amount of supervision required for each experiment. A separate section gives the authors’ findings to facilitate students drawing their own conclusions rather than jumping immediately to those of the writer. Also included is an index. Experiments are aimed at students in grades six through twelve and were prepared by a group of science teachers who have received awards from the National Science Foundation. This volume will be immediately useful in middle and high schools as well as public libraries.


Time-consuming searches for critical information on mystery writers will be significantly reduced with the advent of this series. The easily accessed volumes cover 270 mystery/detective authors, the majority British and American. Signed articles run 2,500 words with major figures receiving longer entries. Reference librarians will be happy to find not only Christie, Chandler, and Doyle, but also Grimes, Paretsky, and Barnard. Entries include: biographical information, pseudonyms, types of plots, series, series characters, critical analysis of the work, bibliographies, and discussion of the author’s contribution to the genre. Public libraries will find this a useful reference and reader’s advisory tool. Academic libraries supporting mystery/detective courses will find it an excellent starting point for research.


The Dictionary of Surnames covers common and unusual-but-informative surnames from areas with a European heritage. Organized by groups of last names, the entries include country of origin, etymology in original language, variations upon the name, and early occurrences where available. A 230-page index refers users from variations to surname group. Names in the dictionary reflect the common ways that surnames are created: patronyms (Hobson), occupational names (Weaver), topographical names (Bradford), habitational names (Blakeway), nicknames, and anglicizations. This scholarly work will be useful to family historians, genealogists, demographers, and other patrons. Highly recommended.


Short entries on terms used in the theater, not on the dramatists and their plays. The topics covered range from costumes and character types to varieties of stages (thrust), technical stage terms (ghost gilde), acting terms, dramatic structure, forms of drama, and the ideas of important theorists (the magic if). Examples of plays illustrating the term being discussed increase the value of the entries. Cross references, brief bibliographies, and some illustrations add to the usefulness of this book. Hodgson is essential for academic libraries.

Gänzl does for opera, comic opera, and musicals what Kobbe (1987) does for operas. Detailed synopses of plot (including placement of songs) follow details of first productions and a list of characters. Entries are arranged by country (Great Britain, France, United States, Austria-Germany-Hungary, Spain) and then chronologically. An essay on the history of musical theater in each geographic area opens each section. The time period covered spans “The Beggar's Opera” (1728) to “The Phantom of the Opera” (1987). Each musical fits one of these criteria: is likely to be produced, is of historical significance, or is a favorite of the authors (and deserving of more recognition). Pictures from productions add interest, and a selective discography and indexes of titles, authors, composers, lyricists, and song titles increase the reference value. Gänzl supplements and updates two light opera books from 1962 (Lubbock and Ewen).


While narrow in scope, this dictionary is broad in its approach to jazz. The two-volume set contains 4,500 entries. Most of these entries are biographies of jazz performers, composers, and arrangers. The remaining entries cover styles and periods of jazz, definitions of terms (often illustrated by musical notation), theory, instruments, films, record labels, jazz clubs, and festivals. An extensive bibliography and discography add to the value of this definitive work. Grove's, long distinguished for music reference works, has successfully produced an academic study of an enduring component of the music world. Music students, educators, and jazz aficionados will welcome this addition to the Grove family.


This big one-volume reference book enables music lovers or students to bypass the 20 volumes of The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians when they need authoritative but concise, quick, or updated information. The Norton/Grove boasts over 10,000 entries. Articles are not signed and there are no bibliographies. Entries are in dictionary form and the contents include all areas of music. This is a particularly attractive ready-reference tool that maintains the high standards expected in a work which is a reduction of a standard. Music lovers or students now have a choice—detailed musicology or this handy alternative provided by The Norton/Grove.


and desirable for public ones.
From its vast citation file of 14 million words in context, Merriam-Webster has produced a 500-entry dictionary of English usage supported by 20,000 illustrative quotations from Shakespeare to Playboy. In a clear, readable nonprescriptive manner the dictionary looks at English usage from both historical and contemporary perspectives. The emphasis is on how language is currently used. Entries run from a few lines to several pages and cover such disputed terms as “ain’t,” “prioritize,” “hopefully,” and “you know.” Grammar, spelling, and pronunciation points are also covered. There is an informative essay on the history of English usage, a pronunciation key, and a bibliography. Outstanding for its currency and clarity, the dictionary will fill a need in public, school, and academic libraries.

Culture and Civilization


A major breakthrough in American resource identification, Ancestry’s Red Book provides county and town listings of vital records, census records, military records, land and church records, newspapers, archives, special collections, and much more. Genealogists and historians will be able to pinpoint exactly what records exist, and where and how to access them. Arranged by state and then by county and/or town, Eichholz presents an overview of state resources, and lists addresses and bibliographies of relevant resources. Maps and charts provide helpful access. Ancestry’s Red Book is a great resource for any serious genealogist or researcher of American history and life.


How does Congress do what it does? This volume presents the vocabulary, concepts, and personalities that explain the process and a good bit of the history, too. This understandable portrayal of the U.S. Congress explains everything from the Abscam scandal to “zone whips” (Democrats in the House who “ride herd” on members from a specific area, especially at voting time). Designed for a wide audience, the alphabetically arranged definitions satisfy and encourage curiosity. Cross-references lead users to further explanations. The concepts, enhanced by biographies of past and present congressional leaders, are potential starting points for research. The appendix is a wonderful gallimaufry of facts, such as censure proceedings in the House, cases of expulsion from the Senate, and a clear presentation on how a bill becomes law. The book’s extensive bibliography is quite current. The table of contents and member and general indexes supply additional access; with photographs.


Finally we have a source that defines the terms of slavery in an accessible yet scholarly manner. Although the entries, which range from a paragraph to several pages, are in alphabetical order, there is also a subject index that will guide users to correct terms. Researchers from high school through graduate school and beyond will start here. The signed entries are cross-referenced, and most include citations to resources for further research. Hundreds of terms are covered, from individuals such as Harriet Tubman to concepts such as abolition, fugitive slaves, octaroons, and hiring out. Charts provide statistics on such topics as the growth of the slave population relative to the white population. This extraordinarily useful volume fills the gaps we knew about, and many we didn’t.

The Dorsey Dictionary of American Government and Politics, by Jay M. Shafritz. 661p. Chicago: Dorsey, 1988 (0-256-05639-0), $34.95; (0-256-05589-0), pap. $18.95.

Attractively illustrated with well-chosen photographs, charts, and cartoons, this 4,000-entry dictionary explains slang, court cases, laws, events, concepts, federal agencies, and key players in American national, state, and local government. Some 125 informative boxes throughout the text add a variety of tidbits, from “How to Tell Democrats from Republicans” (for one thing, “Republicans employ exterminators. Democrats step on bugs”) to “Landmarks in Federal Budget Practices.” Copious “See,” “See also,” and “Compare to” references guide readers to the correct entries, which often end with a short current bibliography. Appendices provide an annotated U.S. Constitution; guides to government documents, statistics, and databases; and key concepts in the book organized by 14 major subjects. This clearly written, au-
1990 Reference sources

authoritative source is a boon to any reference collection.


All southerners— "southern" being a state of mind, not merely geography— should rejoice in the publication of this work, a survey of every aspect of southern culture. Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, some 800 scholars have contributed signed articles, each with a bibliography. The work is divided into 24 thematic sections ranging from agriculture to black life, from industry to women's life. Each section includes an overview essay followed by alphabetically arranged thematic articles and brief biographical sketches. The range of articles covers every aspect of southern life, both serious (slavery, Indians, painters and painting) and frivolous (mint julep, snake handlers, and Elvis Presley), making this book an excellent resource for all levels of user. Good indexing and cross references compensate for the thematic arrangement. Although the book is a delight to browse, it is an excellent and scholarly reference work recommended for all libraries.


The real and potential usefulness of this review is evidenced by the fact that you may want added entries for several chapters in this book. Historic examples of genocide include the Cambodians, the Armenians, the Holocaust, and the gypsies. Well-written bibliographic essays provide background. Those that do not deal with a specific people supply philosophical, historical, legal, and evaluative information. The chapter bibliographies are extensive, annotated, and, as the title says, critical. Bibliographic entries were selected and annotated by the contributing scholars. This well-indexed contribution shows a consistent editorial hand, and, sadly, is very timely.


Those who work for peace on earth may indeed store up treasures in heaven. The most prominent of these individuals, however, are rewarded with the Nobel Peace Prize. This book explains the development of the prize, describes the process by which the Nobel Committee makes its selection, and provides biographical sketches, complete with black-and-white photographs of each laureate. The biographies are grouped by time period, with short essays prefacing each set. These essays explain the time period for that group of articles. The biographies are accompanied by bibliographic citations, and there is an appendix including Alfred Nobel's will and a list of trends in laureate selection. This source is a sure first step for any research on the Nobel Peace Prize from high school level on up.


Victoria's reign, from 1837 to 1901, was a time of great changes in the world and in the everyday lives of people. This marvelous work presents an introduction to the people, places, events, institutions, and ideas of a complicated era in Britain. Its 900 signed articles cover a wide range of topics including fairy tales, plumbing and

New Edition!

"How much is that pork belly in the window?"

No, we don’t think your patrons are window-shopping for commodities. But do they have access to the best guide to accurate pricing information?

Since 1974, Commodity Prices has been the standard index to specialized sources that provide wholesale, retail, future, or spot prices of commodities. Now, for the first time in 15 years, this classic reference has been expanded and completely updated!

- Covers international pricing sources!
- Useful details (not window dressing) include time span and frequency that prices are listed, the type of price listed, and the geographic area for which the price is available. Plus, there’s a bibliography of sources containing helpful contact data.
- Pork bellies, grapefruit, steel, German marks—trading commodities is serious business. The accurate pricing sources compiled in the NEW Commodity Prices make it a must for your patrons involved in or studying commodity transactions.


Call 1-800-877-GALE to order today!
sewage disposal, textile industry, and Alfred Tennyson. Coverage is especially strong in the areas of literature and social issues. Each article is followed by a brief bibliography for further study. An extensive annotated bibliography follows the main text covering the basic reference resources for the period. An excellent index and extensive cross references make this work easy to use. Mitchell's work should find a home in every public, academic, and high school library.

Social sciences

Business Rankings Annual, compiled by Brooklyn Public Library Business Library Staff. 447 p. Detroit: Gale, 1989- (0-8103-4295-6, ISSN 1043-7908), $140.

Looking for the top-10 advertisers in Australia or the top computer magazines? The answers to almost 3,000 such questions can be found quickly and easily in this improved, expanded version of Business Rankings and Salaries Index (Gale, 1988). Now there is an "Outline of Contents" showing all subject terms and subheadings used, including cross-references, and all top-10 names are provided when available, not just the top one. Library of Congress, H.W. Wilson Co., and Information Access subject headings are used to organize the ranked lists of companies, products, services, and activities, derived from a variety of published sources. Every name on every list appears in the index, and the source of the information in each list is provided in a complete bibliographic citation. This new annual is a top choice for all business collections.


The Kastenbaums, gerontologist Robert and nurse-educator Beatrice, are joined by 58 other experts on subjects as diverse as adolescent suicide and the history of tombs to produce this unique multidisciplinary compendium of straightforward information, complete with cross-references, index, a classification of articles, and current bibliographies. Discussions of biomedical and psychosocial aspects (AIDS, cryonic suspension, International Classification of Diseases, death fears, and anxiety) are supplemented by articles on journals and organizations related to death and on legal, ethical, mythical, religious, and historical terms (living wills, psalms of lament, Hades, Hemlock Society, Black Death, etc.). The vampire and zombie traditions are seriously considered. Both public and academic librarians could die for this readable yet scholarly encyclopedia on a formerly taboo topic.


The increased public awareness of obsessive-compulsive behavior, phobias, and anxieties will make this accessible and comprehensive volume a valuable addition to both public and academic collections. Arranged alphabetically, the Encyclopedia offers psychological, pharmacological, diagnostic, and historical information in entries varying in length from a few lines to a few pages and concludes with a brief index and an extensive bibliography. Authoritative yet easier to use than existing resources, this guide's clear presentation makes it useful to both the layperson and the professional.


If you've always relied on Lorna Daniels' Business Information Sources (rev. ed., University of California Press, 1985) and/or Michael Lavin's Business Information: How to Find It, How to Use It (Oryx, 1987), you'll surely love Diane Strauss's complementary, easy-to-use handbook. Part 1 is organized into chapters based on format, including electronic sources, while Part 2 is arranged by field, such as marketing, accounting, credit and banking, stocks, insurance, and real estate. Strauss's lucid evaluative essays compare similar sources and are peppered with over 150 sample pages from the major business reference works. In addition, 12 appendices contain invaluable tips on federal government and vertical file publications as rich storehouses of business information. Any lingering questions about market share, Freddie Mac, or more abstruse topics can easily be answered by skimming the detailed index. Strauss is recommended for all reference desks that deal with business questions.


Business students, job candidates, historians, and investors will find useful information in the International Directory of Company Histories. Of the five volumes projected, one volume has been published. The entire set will cover 1,250 of the world's largest corporations. The criteria for inclusion are companies with over $2 billion in sales, or firms that have been a leading force in their industry. Along with essays about the founding, growth, and development of these companies, entries include company logo, name and address, ownership status, date of incorporation, number of employees and sales. The available volume is indexed, and many of the entries have short bibliographies for further reading. With the addition of four more volumes, the International Directory of Company Histories will be an important source for any library with a business collection.