

OUTSTANDING REFERENCE SOURCES OF 1985

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

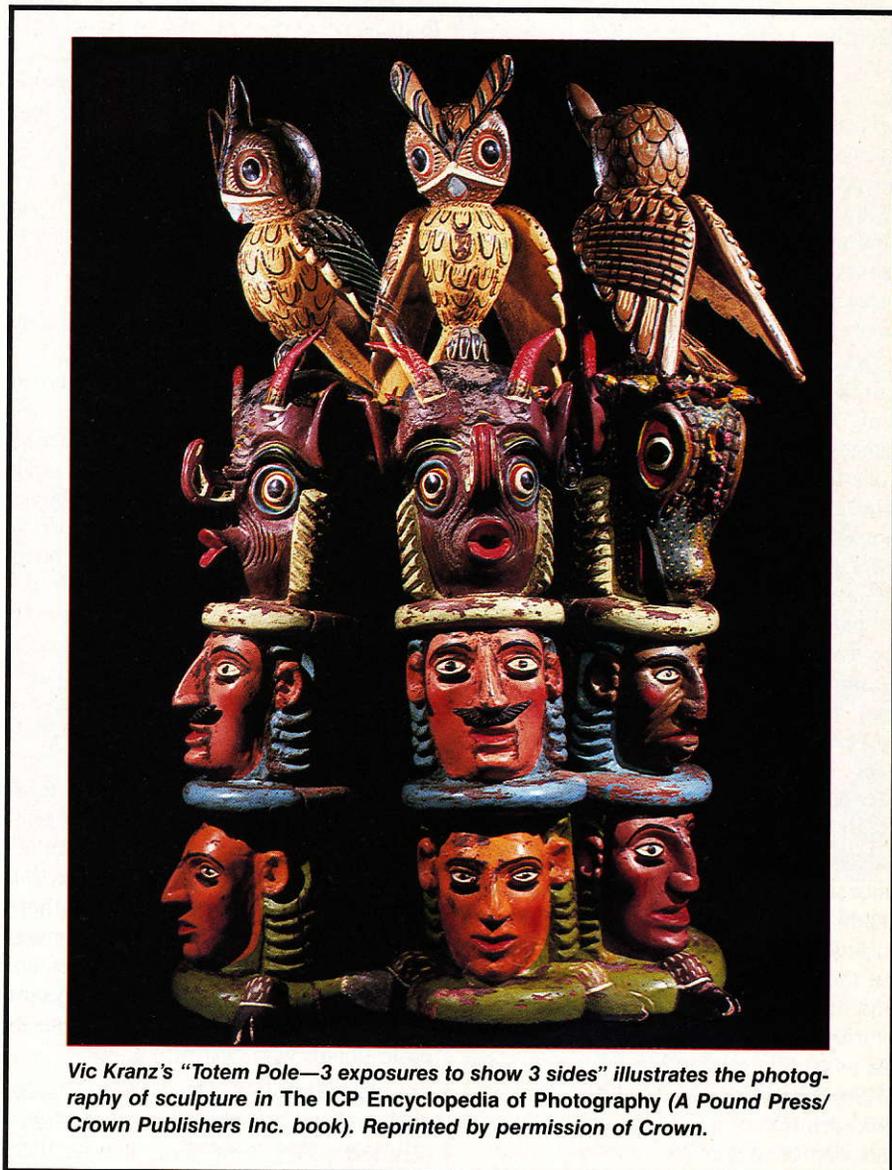
edited by James R. Kuhlman

AFTER EXAMINING A seemingly endless parade of possibilities and meeting far into several nights at Midwinter in Chicago, the Reference Sources Committee takes pleasure in presenting its choices for the outstanding reference sources of 1985. The 45 titles comprising this year's list show strong similarities to last year's 44 selections and continue the trend toward longer lists. The humanities, with 23 titles, again dominate in spite of apparently increased publishing interest in the sciences, technology, and business.

The committee noted a continuing and welcome trend in reference publishing: Stimulating layouts and stunning illustrations grace many of the pages described in the following annotations. The attractiveness of sources such as *The Cambridge Atlas of Astronomy* (Cambridge) and *The Encyclopedia of Aquatic Life* (Facts on File) markedly enhances their reference value.

Perhaps the most significant of recent developments in both reference service and publishing is the impact of changing technology. Publishers now target online bibliographic databases, collections of microfilmed periodical articles accessed by ROM indexes, and even the newest laser disk technology to the small to medium-sized library. A quick review of the committee's selections for the past several years and for 1985 reveals no sources in such innovative formats. Though the committee has carefully considered several candidates from new technologies and will evaluate all future offerings, this year none matched our requirements of quality and appropriateness for small and medium-sized public and academic libraries.

This brings us to an important issue. Committee members and, I hope, most readers have relatively little difficulty in selecting "outstanding" sources. We all, however, encounter complexities when forced to limit that group to titles appropriate for small to medium-sized public and



Vic Kranz's "Totem Pole—3 exposures to show 3 sides" illustrates the photography of sculpture in *The ICP Encyclopedia of Photography* (A Pound Press/Crown Publishers Inc. book). Reprinted by permission of Crown.

academic libraries. Several readers of last year's list felt that some choices were too specialized and beyond the scope of smaller collections.

The committee wrestled with this problem at some length before entering into this year's deliberations. Our discussion revealed an awareness of and sensitivity to the collecting differences between a mid-sized academic library probably support-

ing graduate programs and a fine, though small, public library. We have included some sources, therefore, that we found to be outstanding and appropriate for all medium-sized academic collections, but that may be considered outstanding in quality yet inappropriate for some small libraries. Falling into this category were *Dictionary of American Regional English* (Harvard) and *The New Grove Dictionary*

Reference sources

of *Musical Instruments* (Grove's), for example. Librarians making collection development decisions should evaluate each title presented here on its own merits and in the context of their specific library's needs.

To ensure that sources selected for future lists more effectively match the needs of your libraries, we need your help. Please share with the committee your comments on this year's selections, how they match your collection development needs, and how you use the list. We also need hardy, dedicated members of the Reference and Adult Services Division (RASD) to serve on the committee. It's loads of work, exceptionally rewarding, and requires a commitment to attend Midwinter meetings. We are particularly eager to increase the representation from smaller public, school, and community college libraries. Please address correspondence to Jim Kuhlman, Social Sciences Dept., University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, GA 30602.

As you consider our choices, please keep in mind that selection criteria exclude several categories of sources. Foreign language publications, pamphlets, and new volumes of incomplete sets are omitted. The committee considers annuals, year-books, and new printings of encyclopedias only if the first issues appeared during the year, or if they exhibit significant revisions or changes in editorial policy. The committee judged several new editions, such as *Business Information Sources* (U. California), *Bowker's 1985 Complete Sourcebook of Personal Computing* (Bowker), and *The New Our Bodies, Ourselves* (Simon & Schuster), as both outstanding and significantly changed.

The committee did not attempt to balance subject coverage or to select any minimum or maximum number of titles. We included all material of outstanding quality we thought would be of interest to small and medium-sized public and academic libraries. Every effort was made to keep the list as current as possible. However, some 1984 publications issued too late for careful consideration by last year's committee were included this year.

Members of the 1985 Reference Sources Committee are: Frances Cable, Pennsylvania State University Library, University Park; Patricia A. Doyal, St. John's University Library, Jamaica, N.Y.; W. Michael Havener, School of Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Judith Quinlan, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens; Ellen Derey Safley, Library, University of Texas at Dallas; Debby L. Simone, Gainesville Public Library, Fla.; Carol M. Tobin, Princeton University

Library, N.J.; Gail P. Warner, Whitman County Library, Colfax, Wash.; Linda Sammataro, Main Library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and serving as chair, James R. Kuhlman, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens.

The "Outstanding Reference Sources of 1985" will be displayed at the RASD booth during the ALA Annual Conference in New York. 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.

General

Childhood Information Resources, by Marda Woodbury. 593p. Arlington, Va.: Information Resources, a div. of Herner, 1985 (0-87815-051-X), \$45.

This is the first book to pull together all information sources on American children. It includes over 1,100 reference books and organizations from education, psychology, medicine, social work, and other fields. After an introductory chapter describing the advantages of various types of tools (dictionaries, bibliographies, AV catalogs, periodicals, indexes and abstracts, directories, etc.), further chapters are organized by these types of materials rather than by discipline. Additional chapters cover databases, organizations, tests, statistics, children's books, and parent education materials. An informative introduction precedes each chapter's alphabetical, fully annotated list of sources. The author/title/subject index is keyed to item numbers or page numbers. This is a reference book written with love that should become a standard in any library serving parents or professionals who deal with children.

How-To: 1400 Best Books on Doing Almost Everything, by Bill Katz and Linda Sternberg Katz. 377p. New York: Bowker, 1985 (0-8352-1927-5), \$29.95.

Are you interested in learning how to garden, how to use a computer, or how to repair an automobile? This clearly arranged and well-annotated volume guides users through the maze of how-to books which have proliferated in recent years. Do-it-yourselfers can now easily locate good, current how-to books on hundreds of topics. Helpful annotations and author, title, and subject indexes greatly enhance this work. The time and frustration saved by

this new source will earn the Katzes the gratitude of librarians in all settings.

Social sciences and business

The Almanac of American Employers: A Guide to America's 500 Most Successful Large Corporations, by Jack W. Plunkett. 340p. Chicago: Contemporary Books, 1985 (0-8092-5407-7), pap. \$15.95.

Although many books are available for researching the financial condition of a major corporation, *The Almanac of American Employers* is the first to compare America's largest employers for job seekers. Plunkett has created the "American 500," the 500 largest publicly-held, American-based employers that have shown a profit in each of the two previous years. Using a point scale and ranking system, this resource compares the corporations with respect to salaries, benefits, financial stability, and "room at the top." The volume also includes a geographical index and a select list of subsidiaries.

Business Information Sources, rev. ed., by Lorna M. Daniells. 673p. Berkeley, Calif.: Univ. of California Pr., 1985 (0-520-05335-4), \$35.

Only a handful of reference sources have proven as useful and well used as the first edition of *Business Information Sources*. Lorna Daniells started from scratch in revising this classic, dropping older sources—with the exception of standard works—to make room for newer materials, most published within the last five years. Chapters 1 through 8 describe basic business reference sources such as indexes and statistical compilations. Chapters 9 through 20 concentrate on management functions—for example, accounting and marketing—providing helpful descriptions of basic texts, handbooks, and specialized information sources. New sections highlight topics of recent interest such as money markets and franchising. An old and trusted friend has gotten even better. Essential for all collections.

Dictionary of Finance and Investment Terms, by John Downes and Jordan Elliot Goodman. 495p. Woodbury, N.Y.: Barron's, 1985 (0-8120-2522-9), pap. \$6.95.

"Basic enough for the student, yet comprehensive enough for the professional," says the introduction to this new dictionary. It gives 50-100-word definitions of the current vocabulary used by investors. Over 2,500 terms are arranged in alphabetical order. Special features include sub-

headings for words with several definitions, many graphs illustrating complex terms, an abbreviations/acronyms section, and cross-references for related or contrasting terms. The pocket-size format and modest price make this book desirable for all libraries.

The Encyclopedia of the United Nations and International Agreements, by Edmund Jan Osmańczyk. 1,059p. Philadelphia: Taylor and Francis, 1985 (0-85066-312-1), \$160.

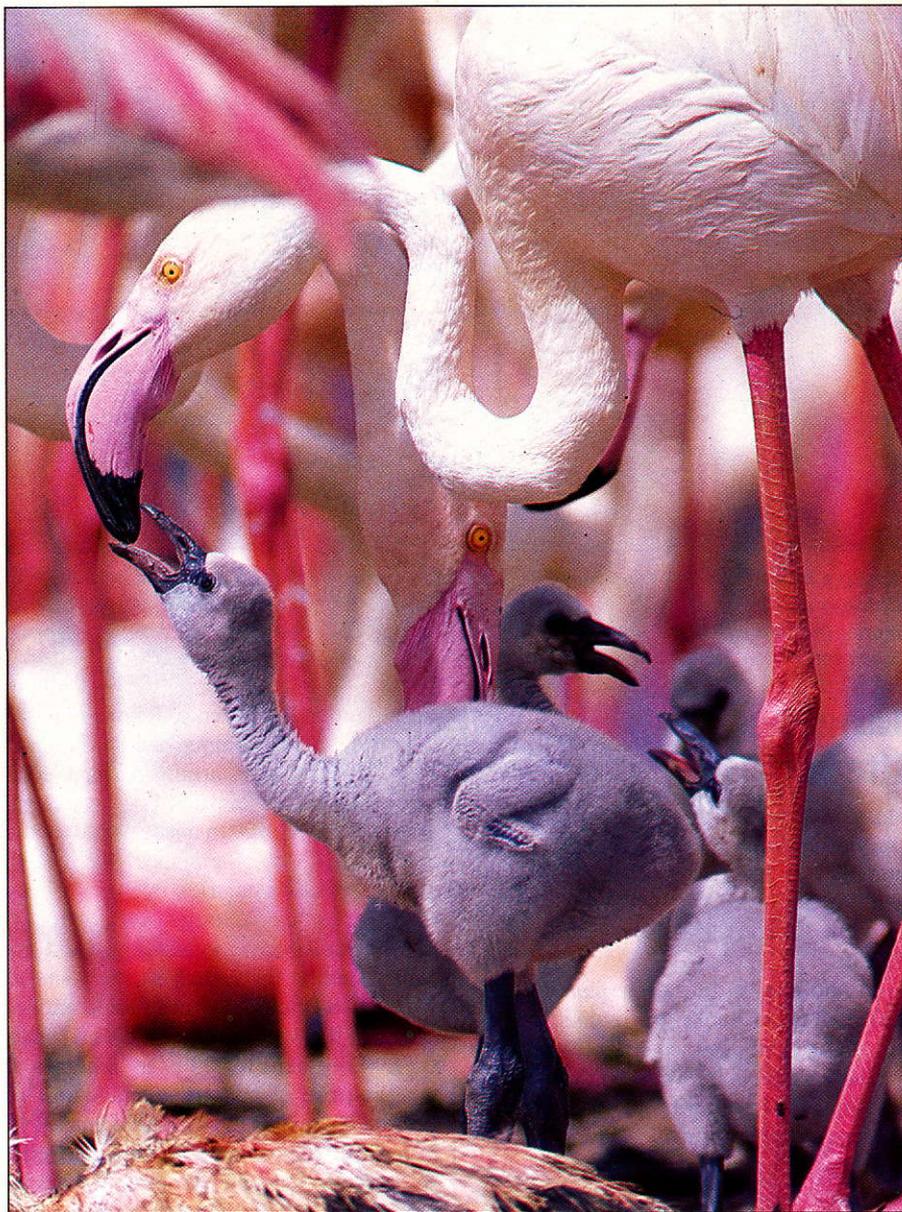
Don't let the title fool you! This resource is more than a guide to the United Nations. Originally written in Polish, *The Encyclopedia of the United Nations and International Agreements* is a one-volume gold mine of social, political, and economic information on the agencies and organizations associated with the U.N. It includes explanations of a wide variety of terms used in diplomacy, international law, military science, politics, economics, and sociology. Entries are arranged alphabetically with extensive cross-referencing. Nearly every term includes references to additional sources of information. Almost 3,000 full-text agreements, conventions, and treaties, complete with a special index, make this work essential for all academic and public libraries with a need for this type of information.

The Facts On File Directory of Major Public Corporations, edited by Stanley R. Greenfield. 1,608p. New York: Facts on File, 1985 (0-8160-1239-3), \$110.

Designed with the smaller library or office in mind, this one-volume directory provides information for over 6,500 corporations whose stock is traded on the New York or American Stock Exchanges, or covered by the National Association of Security Dealers Automated Quotation (NASDAQ) system. Entries include the corporation's address, telephone number, number of employees, primary SIC code, officers by title and function, board of directors, auditing firm, ticker symbol, dividends, price/earning ratios, and revenue and net income figures for 1983 and 1984. Indexes include sections for corporate directors and officers, auditors, SIC codes, and geographical location. Annual revisions are planned for each October.

Handbook of United States Economic and Financial Indicators, by Frederick M. O'Hara and Robert Sicignano. 224p. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1985 (0-313-23954-1), \$35.

Quick reference to economic and financial indicators has been difficult, but is no longer. This new resource provides access to 200 measures of economic activity from



Both sexes of the flamingo feed their offspring on "milk," a secretion from the crop of the bird. Reprinted from *The Encyclopedia of Birds*. Photographer: Bruce Coleman Ltd.

55 major sources. Arranged alphabetically, the handbook supplies a description of each indicator, how it was derived and used, who publishes it and where, and how frequently it is announced. It also tells which of over 100 journals cumulates the indicator. A short section on the agency to contact for more information and a brief bibliography round out the volume. An essential purchase for libraries with frantic business sections.

The Population of the United States: Historical Trends and Future Projections, by Donald J. Bogue. 728p. New York: Free Press, 1985 (0-02-904700-5), \$80.

Demographic data, an essential component of social, political, and market research, is widely available in both print and

machine-readable form from the Census Bureau. Unfortunately, nonspecialists often find it difficult to interpret the tables or to understand the sources of information and sometimes complex relationships among variables. This work extends the author's 1959 publication, *The Population of the United States*. The author uses clear explanations of terms, readable discussions of what the numbers imply, graphs, and pie charts created expressly for this book to clarify data taken largely from published government sources. Bibliographies at the end of each of the 20 chapters and the detailed subject index enhance the guide's research value. A first purchase in this area for all libraries.

(Continued next page.)



Taking a break from selecting the 1985 outstanding reference sources at ALA Midwinter in Chicago are, from left (bottom row, seated): Frances Cable, Judy Quinlan, and Debby Simone; (middle row) Gail Warner, Linda Sammataro, Carol Tobin, and W. Michael Havener; (back row) Ellen Saffley and Jim Kuhlan, chair. Not present was Patricia Doyal.

Language and literature

Accept Me As I Am: Best Books of Juvenile Nonfiction on Impairments and Disabilities, compiled by Joan Brest Friedberg, June B. Mullins, and Adelaide W. Sukiennik. 363p. New York: Bowker, 1985 (0-8352-1974-7), \$27.50.

In addition to critically evaluating over 350 nonfiction books on disabilities written for school-aged children, this guide provides valuable information on the positive impact of authoritative nonfiction on readers; the evolution of attitudes, terminology, and prevalent stereotypes; and on the disabled in society. Chapters cover physical, sensory, and cognitive behavior problems as well as multiple/severe and "various" disabilities. For each book, full bibliographic information, grade level, and specific disability are provided, followed by an annotation and analysis. Separate indexes access authors, titles, and subjects; the latter index includes such topics as diabetes, autism, and blindness. A professional bibliography is appended. By promoting open attitudes and a higher level of understanding, *Accept Me As I Am* becomes an essential resource for anyone working with able-bodied or disabled young people.

Dictionary of American Children's Fiction, 1859-1959: Books of Recognized Merit, by Alethea K. Helbig and Agnes Regan Perkins. 666p. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Pr., 1985 (0-313-22590-7), \$49.95.

The authors have personally examined over 400 children's and young people's fic-

tion titles from a dozen well-known award lists, and created a unique handbook. Over 1,200 alphabetically arranged, descriptive entries describe titles, authors, characters, settings, and motifs. In a single volume the reader can locate biographical and critical material, plot summaries, and an author's major contributions to the field. The commentary is concise, informative, and includes specific facts, such as the genre to which titles belong, the time period and location of the work, and the suggested audience. An extensive, 73-page index is a treasure-trove of author's pseudonyms, titles and characters mentioned in entries, illustrators, genres, and skillfully selected subjects. A welcome addition for all libraries whose staff or patrons seek the best in children's literature.

Dictionary of American Regional English, edited by Frederic G. Cassidy. Vol. 1 of 5: Introduction and A-C. 903p. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard Univ. Pr., 1985- (0-674-20511-1), \$60.

From A to Czarnina (duck's blood soup, for those who don't live in a Polish-American community), this first of five projected volumes offers detailed information on nonstandard, regional, or folk American speech. Representing over 20 years of intensive labor, this monumental work is based on both written sources and responses to an unprecedented 1,847-item questionnaire administered to lifelong residents of 1,002 representative communities. Entries do not merely define, but include part of speech, pronunciation, variant forms, etymology, geographic range, usage, cross-references, editorial notes, and

dated quotations defining the word. Where appropriate, a computer-generated map on which the size of each state reflects its population density illustrates the regional distribution of a word. When it is completed by about 1990, this work will definitely take its place beside the *OED* as a classic.

Contemporary Foreign Language Writers, edited by James Vinson and Daniel Kirkpatrick. 439p. New York: St. Martin's, 1984 (0-312-16663-X), \$35.

Great Foreign Language Writers, edited by James Vinson and Daniel Kirkpatrick. 714p. New York: St. Martin's, 1984 (0-312-34585-2), \$49.95.

Destined to become standard works, these complementary volumes together cover nearly 400 major foreign language (other than English) poets, novelists, and dramatists. Selected authors, chosen on the recommendations of scholars, are typical subjects of student quests. A biographical sketch, a complete listing of separately published books, and a selected list of biographical and critical studies accompany each author entry. The critical, signed essays on each writer reflect the high editorial quality of these two works, which conclude with invaluable title indexes. In addition to writers, *Great Foreign Language Writers* treats epics and collected works such as *A Thousand and One Nights*. All in all, this is a unique compilation. Encompassing authors from Aeschylus to Zola and Abe Kobo to Solzhenitsyn, information is presented in a format for students and scholars alike. The complete primary bibliographies alone mark these works for consideration as first purchases.

Handbook of Russian Literature, edited by Victor Terras. 558p. New Haven, Conn.: Yale Univ. Pr., 1985 (0-300-03155-6), \$35.

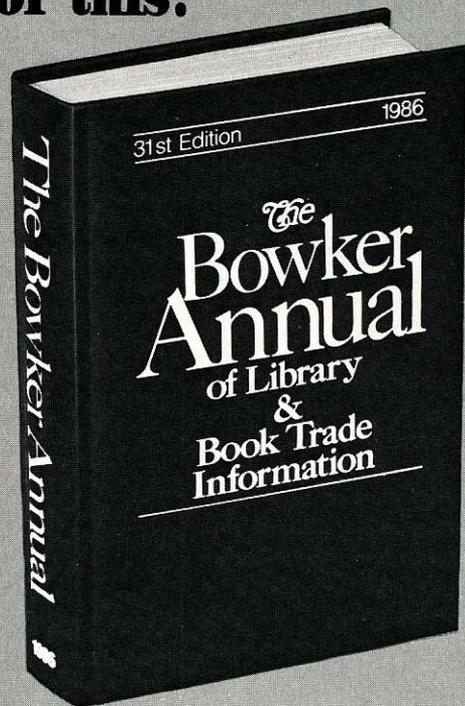
For any English-speaking person interested in Russian literature, Victor Terras and 106 contributing scholars have produced this excellent, alphabetically arranged handbook covering authors, critics, theorists, genres, literary movements and styles, journals, newspapers, publishers, organizations, etc. Almost all entries are followed by an up-to-date bibliography; author entries list primary works, important translations, and secondary literature. The nearly 1,000 signed articles vary greatly in length, partly because any topic covered sufficiently in the nine-volume *Kratkaya literaturnaya entsiklopediya* (Soviet encyclopedia of literature) has been treated only briefly or omitted here. A general bibliography and index complete the volume. Whether one is interested in 11th-century Russian hagiography or in Solzhenitsyn,

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this unique, authoritative handbook is the place to start. For all but the smallest libraries.

English-Russian, Russian-English Dictionary, by Kenneth Katzner. 904p. New York: Wiley-Interscience, 1984 (0-471-86763-2), \$69.95.

Any beginning or intermediate student of Russian will appreciate this handy volume, the first full-sized English-Russian or Russian-English dictionary compiled and published in the United States and based on American English. British spellings are also noted and entered as cross-references. There are about 30,000 words, including idioms and colloquialisms, in each half. Explanatory notes are always in English, and synonyms are provided for words with two or more meanings. Special features include tables of declension patterns and glossaries of English-to-Russian geographical names and famous personal names. The type face used is especially clear and pleasing. This is a necessary item for any library supporting interest in the Russian language.

Ready, Set, Read: Best Books to Prepare Preschoolers, by Ellen Mahoney and Leah Wilcox. 348p. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1985 (0-8108-1684-9), \$19.50.

Though it is written for parents of preschoolers, this authoritative new source will also be useful to librarians and educators. Organized by developmental stages, from infancy through five years, chapters provide outstanding background information on the levels through which learning and reading progress. The authors' succinct comments make it easy to find the best ways to use individual titles with children at the appropriate time in their emotional and physical development. Readers will also discover helpful tips on reading aloud and on the use of music and verse, in addition to suggested recordings for children. Each chapter concludes with complete bibliographic information on books discussed, recommendations for further reading, and additional book suggestions for the age level being considered. The extremely useful subject index pinpoints categories such as "concept books" and "touch and feel books." A future classic.

A Reference Guide to Modern Fantasy for Children, by Pat Pflieger. 690p. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1984 (0-313-22886-8), \$65.

Unlike previous guides to the genre, this title presents in-depth coverage of 36 19th- and 20th-century American and British authors and their 100-plus works of fantasy. Authors, books, characters, places,

and magical objects are listed alphabetically for ease of access. Thorough indexing and cross-references are a bonus. Entries on books present plot synopses and bibliographic information on first editions. Author entries, including such favorites as Susan Cooper, E.B. White, and Lloyd Alexander, provide capsulized biographies, brief discussions of major themes in full-length fantasies, a bibliography of primary works, and another bibliography of selected critical studies. For librarians, students, teachers, and children—all those who want to relive the trials of Will Stanton or find the Stone of Power.

Research Guide to Biography and Criticism, 2 vols., edited by Walton Beacham. 1,362p. Washington, D.C.: Research Publishing, 1985 (0-933833-00-8), \$129.

Beacham's new work, already in its third printing, is proving its popularity as an important guide to biographical and critical information on more than 300 of the "most often studied" American, English, and Canadian poets, novelists, and authors of prose. For each author, contributors provide a chronology of the writer's life in relation to his or her work, a selective bibliography of primary works, evaluations of biographies and criticism, and a highly selective list of encyclopedia articles. Sources described must be readily available in most U.S. libraries. Because the selection of materials for each author is intentionally limited, the beginning researcher will benefit from the guidance and direction not found in more comprehensive bibliographies.

Sequences: An Annotated Guide to Children's Fiction in Series, by Susan Roman. 134p. Chicago: American Library Association, 1985 (0-8389-0428-9), \$17.50.

Librarians will rejoice at this lively, annotated guide to children's novels in series. Alphabetically arranged author entries first describe and critique each series and then list titles chronologically with informative annotations. The author selected only works which were closely related to others within a series and showed "demonstrated growth and development in the character or plot." Main character, title, and series indexes access sequential fiction—from George Seldon's cricket stories to science fiction by Anne McCaffrey and pioneer stories by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Easy-to-use and clearly written, *Sequences* is a must for all children's collections.

Supernatural Fiction Writers: Fantasy and Horror, 2 vols., edited by E.F. Bleiler. 1,169p. New York: Scribner, 1985 (0-684-17808-7), \$130.

Supernatural tales of horror and fantasy have been avidly read since at least Roman times, but this genre has only recently begun to receive serious critical attention. *Supernatural Fiction Writers* makes a broad range of information available in one easy-to-use reference tool. More than 145 articles of from 5 to 10 pages provide expert biographical and critical commentary on writers from 125 A.D. to the present, with a strong concentration on American and British authors. The articles are uniformly readable and include good selected bibliographies. All those with an interest in supernatural fiction will welcome this set.

Psychology and religion

Biographical Dictionary of Psychology, by Leonard Zusne. 563p. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1984 (0-313-24027-2), \$49.95.

This revision of the author's 1975 *Names in the History of Psychology* includes deceased figures significant in the history of psychology but not necessarily psychologists. Places and dates of birth and death, education, important positions, and honors are listed in an easy-to-read format and are followed by a brief appraisal of the biographee's importance and references to additional sources of biographical information. Special features include a unique system of ranking individuals by importance (Freud is first, Aristotle second) and a listing of 19th- and 20th-century academic contributors to psychology who are arranged geographically, then chronologically. A name and topic index concludes this multi-use dictionary.

The Facts On File Dictionary of Religions, edited by John R. Hinnells. 550p. New York: Facts on File, 1984 (0-87196-862-2), \$24.95.

Twenty-nine scholars from many nations combined their knowledge of the world's religions to produce this outstanding contribution. Some 1,150 entries define terms ranging from African religions to astrology, the occult, and Humanism. The scope is international and across time. Living religions receive greatest emphasis; highest wordage goes to religions with large followings. Eleven maps showing both ancient and modern sites of religious significance and a 65-page topical bibliography greatly enhance the research value of this work. A synoptic index organizes entries under broad topics such as Islam, while the general index provides access to the thousands of terms explained within the princi-

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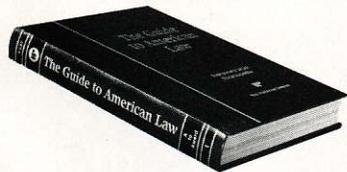


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West's Law and Commercial Dictionary

is another recent publication, one which provides definitions of 17,000 terms from civil and common law and from U.S. and foreign commercial systems. Foreign synonyms in four languages, German, Spanish, French and Italian, follow the English definition of each entry. *Black's Law Dictionary*, Fifth Edition, is the classic source for legal definitions of terms used in American law.

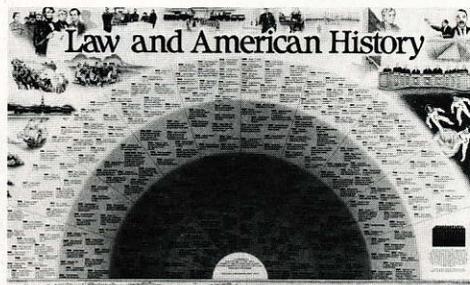
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Reference sources

pal entries. A major addition for all reference collections.

Test Critiques, edited by Daniel J. Keyser and Richard C. Sweetland. Vol. 1: 778p. 1984 (0-9611286-6-6), \$75; Vol. 2: 859p. 1985 (0-9611286-7-4), \$75; Vol. 3: 771p. 1985 (0-9611286-8-2), \$75. Kansas City, Mo.: Test Corp. of America, 1984-

Undergraduates, graduate students, and professionals will welcome these candid assessments of educational, psychological, and business tests. Each analysis, written by an expert in the field, considers the history and development of the tests, practical applications, subjects and interpretation, validity and reliability, and strengths and weaknesses, and is followed by a bibliography. Entries are arranged by test title within each volume with access enhanced by author, subject, test title, and reviewer indexes. A sure bet to become a standard.

History

Atlas of the North American Indian, by Carl Waldman; maps and illus. by Molly Braun. 276p. New York: Facts on File, 1985 (0-87196-850-9), \$29.95.

Those interested in Native Americans and their history will find this atlas a rewarding source. Some 96 well-drawn, two-color maps illustrate items as varied as the routes of the Trail of Tears, urban Indian centers, and the spread of peyote use. The accompanying detailed text admirably puts the maps into context. Appendixes include lists of current Indian reservations and of Indian tribes in the United States and Canada with their historical and contemporary locations. A two-page bibliography and index complete the volume. Covering prehistory to the present, this new atlas draws together maps not easily found elsewhere. A welcome addition to all libraries.

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Latin America and the Caribbean, edited by Simon Collier, Harold Blakemore, and Thomas E. Skidmore. 456p. New York: Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1985 (0-521-26263-1), \$39.50.

The Cambridge History of Latin America, first 3 vols. of 8, edited by Leslie Bethell. Vol. 1: Colonial Latin America. 656p. 1984 (0-521-23223-6), \$65; Vol 2: Colonial Latin America. 922p. 1984 (0-521-24516-8), \$75; Vol. 3: From Independence to c.1870. 945p. 1985 (0-521-23224-4), \$80. New York: Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1984-

Cambridge has produced two excellent reference sources on Latin America. Smaller libraries may wish to purchase only the encyclopedia while larger collections will benefit from both. The encyclopedia presents a topical rather than a dictionary arrangement with six main sections on physical environment, economy, peoples, history, politics and society, and culture. Within these areas, subsections explore such topics as Latin American cinema or the military in politics. The inclusion of current information on such topics as liberation theology and the Falklands/Malvinas war as well as continuing interest in Latin America recommend this well-illustrated, indexed work to all libraries.

The Cambridge History of Latin America is the first of the Cambridge histories to be issued in chronological order. Like its predecessors, this work presents lengthy essays with detailed bibliographies. In keeping with new areas of scholarly interest, this set covers such topics as women and Africans in Spanish American colonial society, in addition to more traditional topics such as the hacienda system and the Portuguese settlement of Brazil. The eight volumes of the completed set, each with its own index, will cover the colonial period to the

present, with three volumes devoted to the post-1930 period. A basic reference work for medium-sized and larger libraries.

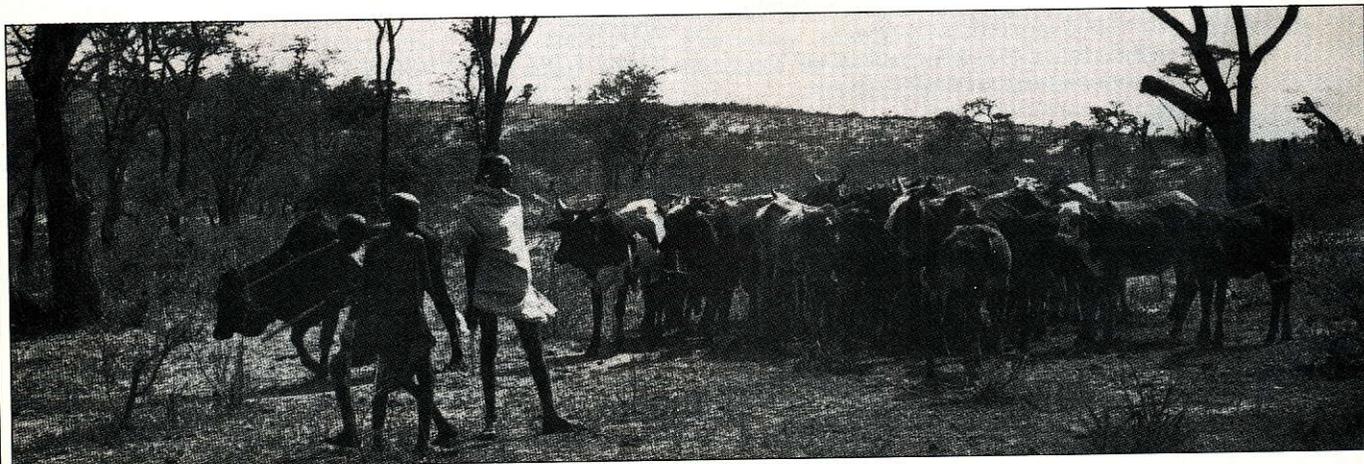
The Canadian Encyclopedia, 3 vols., edited by James H. Marsh. 2,089p. Edmonton, Alberta: Hurtig, 1985 (0-88830-269-X), \$175.

This three-volume encyclopedia was produced by more than 2,500 experts and sponsored by the Province of Alberta and the University of Alberta to serve as the "new national encyclopedia" of Canada. Its 8,000 signed entries focus on Canadiana, covering people, places, and events, with particular attention to heretofore neglected groups such as women and Native Americans. A clear index allows easy access to well-illustrated pages. In keeping with Canada's bilingualism, a French edition is to be published in 1987. A compact and up-to-date source of information.

Historical Atlas of Africa, edited by J.F. Ade Ajayi and Michael Crowder. 167p. [including plates]. New York: Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1985 (0-521-25353-5), \$75.

This is the best African historical atlas available. Ten years in the making, it consists of 72 beautifully drawn, full-color plates, some with up to 12 maps. The plates appear on the left, the accompanying text on the right. The time span is pre-man to the present. The maps illustrate not only historical events, such as Africa during World War II, but also geology, natural resources, and cultural phenomena such as the spread of Islam. An index of places and topics refers to the appropriate plate. With African countries much in the news, this atlas will provide perspective on a diversity of topics, from the rainfall in the Sahel to the history of the Boers in South Africa. Useful in public and academic libraries.

(Continued on p. 353.)



This photo (property of Kenya Information Service) of Maasai herdsman and their cattle appears in Cambridge's Historical Atlas of Africa.

(Reference sources cont. from p. 320.)

Vietnam War Almanac, by Harry G. Summers. 414p. New York: Facts on File, 1985 (0-8160-1017-X), \$24.95.

Good reference books about the Vietnam experience are finally being published. This almanac, really an encyclopedic dictionary, covers the political, military, and social aspects of the war in an A-Z arrangement. The entries vary in length from one paragraph to two pages. Abbie Hoffman and Lt. Calley share space with casualty figures and an analysis of North Vietnamese strategy. Suggestions for future reading follow many entries and are gathered into a bibliography at the end. Also included: a 26-page intro to the setting of the conflict, a chronology, and a detailed index. An excellent choice for all libraries.

The arts, music, and film

The Crown Guide to the World's Great Plays: From Ancient Greece to Modern Times, rev., updated ed., by Joseph T. Shipley. 866p. New York: Crown, 1984 (0-517-55392-9), \$24.95.

After a gap of 30 years, we finally have a

much-needed update to the invaluable 1956 *Guide to Great Plays*. Ancient through contemporary dramatists, mostly Western, are covered alphabetically. Entries on each of the 750 full-length plays provide a synopsis, criticism, and production history through 1983. A title index also refers to an additional 200 plays that are mentioned briefly in the articles. Major theatrical organizations are described in a helpful listing by abbreviation or acronym. As author Shipley said in the preface to the original edition, this guidebook is the key to drama of lasting value for "entertainment, enlightenment, exaltation." An essential purchase for both public and academic libraries.

The Great Song Thesaurus, by Roger Lax and Frederick Smith. 665p. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 1984 (0-19-503222-5), \$75.

How many reference books can you characterize as both invaluable and fun to use? *The Great Song Thesaurus* is unique in that it not only provides information about songs but about history and culture as well. The scope is impressive—over 10,000 titles from the 16th century through 1979. The main section lists song titles alphabetically with date of composition, composer/

lyricist, performers, short history, and references to movies or theater. Other sections list greatest songs, award winners, songs from theater, film, radio, and TV, and other hard-to-find categories. A thesaurus of titles by subject, key word, and category complete this must acquisition for any general reference or popular music collection.

The ICP Encyclopedia of Photography, by the International Center of Photography. 607p. New York: Crown, 1984 (0-517-55271-X), \$29.98.

This one-volume reference work provides the general reader a comprehensive view of the field. The editors conducted a world-wide search for significant photographs, and the resulting collection of black-and-white and color plates is outstanding. Over 1,300 entries explore the historical, artistic, and technical aspects of photography. Biographical sketches include 19th- and 20th-century photographers born before 1940, plus individuals involved in developing new photographic products or techniques. There are two appendixes: a biographical supplement of over 2,000 photographers and an alphabetical list of photographic societies and asso-

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ciations. *The ICP Encyclopedia of Photography* brings together a wealth of current information not found in previously published single-volume encyclopedias. A welcome addition to all collections. Available at remaindered price (above) through Outlet Book Co., 225 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10003. Originally, \$50.

The Motion Picture Guide, first 3 vols. of 12, by Jay Robert Nash and Stanley Ralph Ross. Vol. 1: A-B. 324p. 1985 (0-933997-01-9); Vol. 2: C-D. 405p. 1985 (0-933997-02-7); Vol. 3: E-G. 416 p. 1985 (0-933997-03-5). Chicago: Cinebooks, dist. by R.R. Bowker, 1985- (0-933997-00-0), \$750 per set.

When completed, the *Motion Picture Guide* is destined to be the major source for any film question, for the film scholar or trivia buff, and for serious or casual research. Volumes 1 through 9 of this comprehensive 12-volume set will cover every movie made in English along with notable foreign films from 1927 to 1984. Volume 10 will feature the silents; and volumes 11 and 12, major film awards, title changes, film series, and a proper name index. Information for each of the 35,000 titles will include detailed production credits, casts and roles, an accurate synopsis, and extensive commentary. Access to the *Guide* is being developed in CD-ROM format and as an online database. This work is well written, entertaining, humorous, yet includes all necessary factual and critical material. No library should be without it.

Science Fiction: The Complete Film Sourcebook, edited by Phil Hardy. 400p. New York: Morrow, 1984 (0-688-00842-9), \$25.

What makes *Science Fiction* one of the single most useful reference books about cinema? It begins with a fine introduction which places the science fiction film in perspective. An alphabetical listing of over 1,200 films, grouped chronologically from 1895 to 1983, provides credits, running times, names of at least six actors from each movie, plot summaries, and informative critical evaluations. There are numerous photographs, many in color. Both American and foreign films are covered. Appendixes include film festival awards, top science fiction films ranked by earnings, and the "top ten" lists from movie critics. An attractive, entertaining, well illustrated work useful for both the general reader and the specialist.

The New Grove Dictionary of Musical Instruments, 3 vols., edited by Stanley Sadie. 2,800p. London: Macmillan Press Ltd., dist. by Grove's Dictionaries of Music Inc.,

1984 (0-943818-05-2), \$350.

The New Grove Dictionary of Musical Instruments supersedes all other reference books on this subject. More than just a dictionary, it includes history of the field, profiles of over 1,000 instrument makers and inventors, bibliographies, and comprehensive coverage of ancient and modern, Western and non-Western musical instruments. Although derived in part from the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, this is a new work which updates, revises, and expands, particularly in the area of non-Western instruments. Over 1,600 black and white photographs and drawings enhance the articles. An essential purchase for any library that has a music collection.

The Thames and Hudson Dictionary of Art Terms, by Edward Lucie-Smith. 208p. London: Thames and Hudson, dist. by Norton, 1984 (0-500-23389-6), \$19.95.

Art critic and historian Edward Lucie-Smith designed this clear, concise, compact dictionary to serve as a field guide to the arts. More than 2,000 definitions cover painting, sculpture, architecture, photography, and graphics. Extensive cross-references, many recently coined words, and alternate explanations for obscure terms add to the volume's value. The 375 photographs, line drawings, and diagrams are well labeled, and when appropriate, become part of the definition. A useful table of dynasties is appended. Highly recommended for all libraries.

World Coin Encyclopedia, by Ewald Junge. 297p. New York: Morrow, 1985 (©1984) (0-688-04082-9), \$19.95.

One can find in this attractive one-volume encyclopedia—listed alphabetically—terms and denominations, biographies of coinmakers and medalists, gazetteer data, and information about numismatists, collectors, and collections. The more than 1,500 entries, covering all countries, are clear and concise with liberal cross-references. Practically every page includes one or more unusually high-quality photographic reproductions. A 500-item bibliography is appended. The *World Coin Encyclopedia* will be in demand.

Science and technology

Bowker's 1985 Complete Sourcebook of Personal Computing, rev. ed. 1,050p. New York: Bowker, 1984- (0-8352-1931-3), pap. \$19.95.

This extensively expanded and reformatted sourcebook (last year's was called the

Bowker/Bantam 1984 Complete Sourcebook of Personal Computing) includes a readable introduction, a glossary, and detailed information on 767 microcomputers, 127 IBM-compatible micros, 168 portable computers, 2,551 peripheral hardware products, and 2,300 software packages. Other sections include lists of producers and distributors and recent reviews of hardware, software, peripheral products, and personal computing books. Over 5,700 current books and 550 computer magazines are briefly annotated. PC user groups are listed by language, machine, and operating system or software interest, as well as geographically. The 1,000-page volume closes with a useful subject index. Another solid Bowker product, this annual is now the one comprehensive source for reliable information on personal computer products and organizations.

The Cambridge Atlas of Astronomy, edited by Jean Audouze and Guy Israël. 432p. New York: Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1985 (0-521-26369-7), \$90.

This beautiful atlas features 770 superb photographs, nearly half in color, as well as three star maps and an authoritative text written by 45 expert contributors. The essence of what is currently known about our universe is clearly explained in chapters on the sun, the solar system, the stars, the galaxy, and beyond. Both current scientific perspectives and the history of astronomy are covered. Destined to educate and delight all who are interested in learning more about the universe.

The Encyclopedia of Aquatic Life, edited by Keith Banister and Andrew Campbell. 349p. New York: Facts on File, 1985 (0-8160-1257-1), \$35.

Experts from the United States, Great Britain, and New Zealand have contributed to this impressive one-volume encyclopedia. The authoritative, up-to-date, and extremely readable text covers fishes, aquatic invertebrates, and sea mammals. A major feature of the volume is the inclusion of over 400 beautiful color illustrations and photographs. The combination of excellent text, illustrations, and format makes *The Encyclopedia of Aquatic Life* an attractive purchase for both public and academic libraries.

The Encyclopedia of Birds, edited by Christopher M. Perrins and Alex L. A. Middleton. 447p. New York: Facts on File, 1985 (0-8160-1150-8), \$35.

A companion to 1984's outstanding *Encyclopedia of Mammals*, *The Encyclopedia of Birds* shares the same quality of breathtaking color photography. The articles,



This overexposed photograph of the famous Horsehead Nebula from The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Astronomy illustrates the effect of interstellar dust on light. The

Horsehead protrudes from and is part of a dense, dark cloud containing large amounts of dust, which completely absorbs light from the regions behind it. Only the stars in

front of the cloud are visible in the lower part of the photo. (Property of the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, Scotland; reprinted with permission of Cambridge U. Press.)

written by more than 90 contributors and arranged in taxonomic order, cover 180 families of birds throughout the world. Readers will find a full range of information specific to each bird family, including distribution patterns, habitat, size, color, calls, and nesting behavior. Additional articles cover life cycles, mating rituals, social organization, and social patterns. The index provides access by popular and scientific names as well as by topic. *The Encyclopedia of Birds* offers enchanting photographs of over 400 birds in motion: fighting, flying, resting, mating, feeding, and being fed.

Kirk-Othmer Concise Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, edited by Martin Grayson. 1,318p. New York: Wiley-Interscience, 1985 (0-471-86977-5), \$99.95.

The 24-volume *Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology* has long been considered the Bible of chemical technology. Grayson's new concise edition makes this authoritative work affordable for libraries of all sizes. Well laid out and

clearly written, the one-volume version contains each of the original 1,100 articles condensed into approximately two million words of text enhanced by excellent black-and-white illustrations and tables. Good indexing and extensive cross-references make the wealth of chemical information contained in this volume easily accessible.

The New Our Bodies, Ourselves: A Book by and for Women, rev. ed., by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective. 639p. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1984 (0-671-46087-0), \$24.95; (0-671-46088-9), pap. \$12.95.

All libraries will welcome this revised edition of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. Holding true to the original goals, "to fit as much information on women's health between the covers of this book as we can; to let women's different voices speak out in its pages," the editors have added chapters reflecting concerns of the 1980s. New chapters discuss body image, alcohol, alternatives to medical care, violence against women, and older women. Valu-

able resource lists of periodicals, books, audiovisual materials, hotlines, and associations follow each chapter. Plan to purchase additional circulating copies.

Software Reviews on File. Monthly, loose-leaf. New York: Facts on File, Vol. 1, no. 1-January 1985- (8755-7169), \$145/year.

Are you unable to keep up with the proliferation of microcomputer periodicals flooding the market? Do you have frustrated patrons searching for information on microcomputer software? In 1985, *Software Reviews on File* took a major step toward solving such problems by publishing 100-word excerpts from 3,000 reviews of over 500 new microcomputer programs. The reviews, arranged loosely by topic, are taken from more than 150 computer publications, and include brand name, author, contents, system requirements, copyright date, and price. Cumulative indexes access the excerpts of reviews by software brand name, general subject categories, computer brand name, and software producers. □