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BOOKLIST ONLINE'S

TOP SHELF REFERENCE

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Staying in touch with librarians in the field is quite important to me, as it allows us to tailor *Booklist* content to what readers are most interested in. In fact, it's such a part of the job that we've made it part of my new title, Editor, Collection Management and Library Outreach. To that end, if there is a topic you'd like to see covered in this newsletter, in our [Corner Shelf newsletter](#), or elsewhere in *Booklist*-land, please let me know! As part of our outreach efforts, we've been working on a [series of live events](#), in partnership with NoveList and the RAILS library system here in Illinois. These events are normally showcased in *Corner Shelf* because they tend to have a collection-development or readers'-advisory angle, but I wanted to call them out here as well. These live events are an excellent complement to our wonderful series of [webinars](#), and if you [look at our archive](#), you'll see plenty of reference content.

Speaking of reference content, this issue features Nicolette Warisse Sosulski dissecting a health-reference search, Donna Seaman's recent Core Collection feature on the brain, and more.

As mentioned, I love to hear about what you'd like to see featured in *Top Shelf Reference*, particularly if you are interested in submitting a feature item. Get in touch with me at rvnuk@ala.org.

—[Rebecca Vnuk](#), Editor, Collection Management and Library Outreach, *Booklist*

Real Life Reference: Sleep Paralysis

by Nicolette Warisse Sosulski



The slightly panicked student came over to my desk in the corner of the room. "They told me I should come to you. I am not at all sure what I am going to do because I cannot find the kind of sources I think I need for my paper."

"OK, let's see what we can do. Why don't you tell me about your topic? What are you working on?" I try to start out by alleviating the nervousness by saying "we," assuming some co-ownership of the search.

"Well, it's on sleep paralysis. I am examining the effects on a person, what it does to them, and how things come about."

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College Blue Book, 43rd ed.

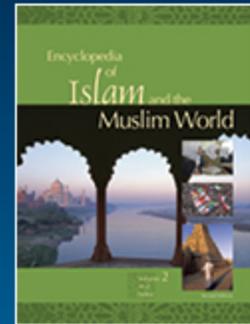


6 volumes
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ISBN: 9780028662992

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Reference Resurges

SPONSORED CONTENT

by Tina Creguer

When people go to the public library, they're looking for information about their personal interests. Interests range from history, self-help, cooking, health, and fitness to business, careers, hobbies, and DIY projects. And they also look for resources that inform them about current events, global issues, and news. Especially now, people are working to understand the changing world around them. In fact, a much-publicized recent Pew survey revealed that 54 percent of public-library users visit the library to do research.

The same study also found that a full two-thirds (66 percent) of those going to the library to do research and use reference materials are doing so for school or work—making it critical for resources to be up to date and to contain accurate information.

So, sexy or not, what libraries used to unabashedly call reference materials are in greater demand than ever. The need for validated, reliable information is growing. And Gale is meeting those needs with stellar, award-winning reference titles.

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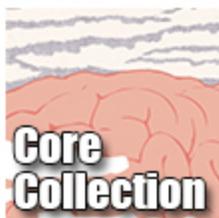
Histories of Everyday Life in Totalitarian Regimes
Explores daily life in such totalitarian dictatorships as Nazi Germany, Stalin's Soviet Union, China under Mao, and North Korea through compelling personal histories and experiences.

St. James Press
June 2015
ISBN: 9781558629271

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Core Collection: Our Brains, Ourselves

by Donna Seaman



There is something intriguingly paradoxical about neuroscience: we must use our brains to study our brains, a closed circuit that is being dramatically altered by the development of evermore sophisticated brain-imaging technologies. But the great mystery of how the brain generates thoughts and emotions, preserves memories, and drives behaviors, forging each of our unique selves, remains alluringly unresolved, instilling a sense of wonder even in the most rigorous of neuroscientists. This mix of fact and awe inspired the compelling popular science and health titles below, works that dynamically

combine memoir with scientific discoveries, physicians' realizations, and caregivers' instructive experiences.

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Reference Site to Remember: Merck Manual Online

by Rebecca Vnuk

The *Merck Manual* has been a standard medical reference source for more than 100 years. In June 2015, Merck made the decision to move from the print edition to a free digital resource.

The constantly updated site offers two options on its landing page: one with advanced content designed for [health-care professionals](#), and one with the same subject matter, translated into easy-to-understand language for patients and consumers. Librarians should steer most patrons to the [consumer site](#), where users will find basic and detailed information on health concerns, a drug-interaction checker, a pill identifier, and a guide to pronunciation of medical terms.



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Professional Reading Roundup: 2015

by Rebecca Vnuk

Professional reading materials are reviewed exclusively on *Booklist Online*, and to make sure you haven't missed any, we present a roundup of some of the titles reviewed from November 2014 to November 2015. Be sure to click through to read the full reviews.



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#twitterreference

by Rebecca Vnuk

Librarians rarely just sit there while out at the reference desk. Even when there's not a patron in front of them, they're often furiously typing away at something on their computer. It's likely that they're searching for the answer to a previous question, working on the latest collection report, tweaking a new public desk schedule . . . or perhaps they're tweeting. Let's take a peek.





Marie R.
@eleneariel

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"I've been reading more lately, but I need it stop it. I don't want to get in the habit." [#overheard](#) [#librarylife](#)

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