

One of the key components of my role here at *Booklist* is finding ways to assist librarians with their professional development. You may know we offer [a series of live events](#), [a series of webinars](#), and I'd like to point your attention to our "Professional Reading Roundup." While the reviews don't appear in the print issues of *Booklist*, we do cover a well-rounded selection of professional-reading titles throughout the year on *Booklist Online*, and this is a handy way to see what you may have missed.

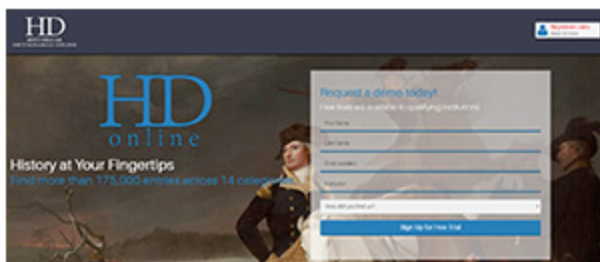
As always, I love to hear about what you'd like to see featured in *Top Shelf Reference*, particularly if you are interested in submitting a feature item. Get in touch with me at rvnuk@ala.org.

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

Get to Know Rowman & Littlefield

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Rowman & Littlefield provides quality reference works for the patrons of public, school, and college libraries, as well as professional books for the librarians that serve them. Whether it's through our historical dictionaries (of countries, religions, organizations, wars, movements, cities, ancient civilizations, arts, literature, politics, espionage, film, theater, sports, professions, and industries), or through our multi-volume sets, readers have come to trust us to deliver reliable and valuable reference books. Most of our titles are available in both print and e-book formats.



This month, our titles focus on culture, food, and religion. [Preview them here](#). Have you tried our Historical Dictionaries database? If not, please preview the database here: <https://historicaldictionaries.com/>.

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Real Life Reference: Regression Therapy for Dummies

by Nicolette Warisse Sosulski

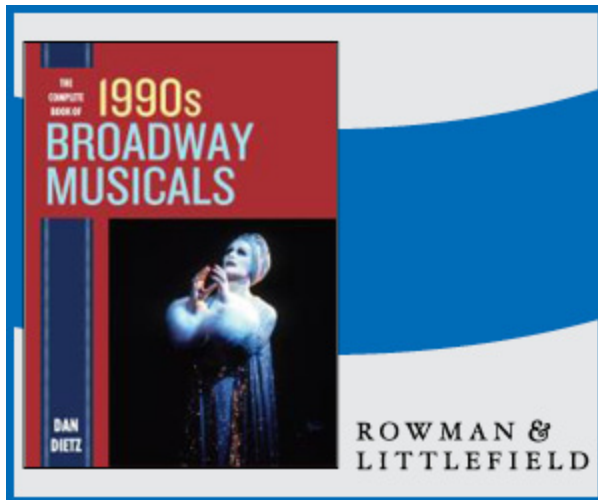
The purpose of the reference interview is to find out what the patron really wants. Sometimes its purpose is to help the patron find out what she or he really wants through



extended, skillful questioning. It is generally held that librarians give information, not advice.

Sometimes, that takes effort—and many times, we librarians have to bite our tongues and just try to be balanced or, at most, point out that one information source is far more authoritative than another. But sometimes, every so often, one discovers that, despite what Katz and Bopp and Smith and Tyckoson and Wong et al. may say, sometimes the noblest aim of the reference interview is to convince patrons that they really, really do not want to do what they *think* that they really, really want to do.

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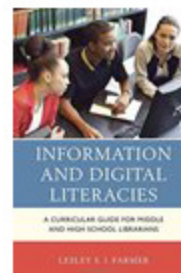
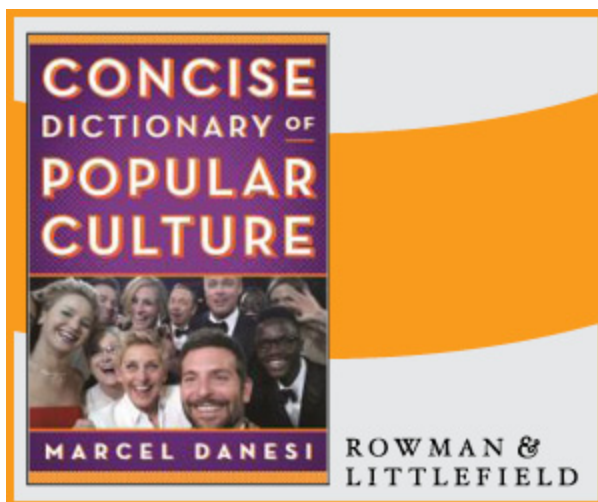


Professional Reading Roundup: 2016

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 December 2015 to November 2016. Be sure to click through to read the full reviews.

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The Ultimate Reference Guide to Christianity's History in America

5 VOLUME SET

ENCYCLOPEDIA of CHRISTIANITY IN THE UNITED STATES

EDITED BY GEORGE THOMAS BOYD AND MARK A. LORTCH
FOREWORD BY MARTIN MASTY

ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD

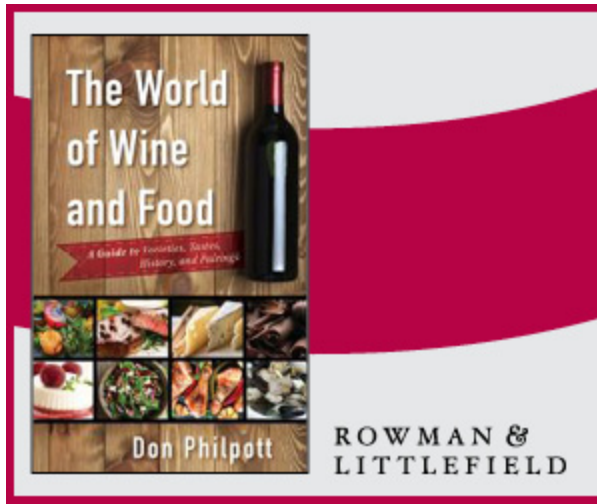
Featured Reference Review: *The Handbook of European Intelligence Cultures*

by Mary Ellen Snodgrass

A precise, country-by-country overview of European intelligence-gathering methods and security initiatives, this analysis reframes spying in the decades following the Cold War and the dismantling of the Berlin Wall and the rise of terrorism.



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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 computers. 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.





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