



A valuable, contemporary guide for a more efficient, effective and vital digital life

ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD



BOOKLIST ONLINE'S

TOP SHELF REFERENCE

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Two new features make their debut in this issue. Mike Bemis takes a look at older reference works you should remember in "Reference Under the Radar," while Chad Comello ponders reference questions in "Refer Madness." Don't worry: Nicolette Sosulski's "Real-Life Reference" will be back in an upcoming issue!

If you have a moment, I'd love to hear your feedback on these new columns. And, as always, I'm eager to get your thoughts on what else we can offer you in *Top Shelf Reference*, particularly if you are interested in submitting a feature item (that's how we gained these two!). Get in touch with me at rvnuk@ala.org.

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

Top Five Things You Can Do to Get Started Managing Your Digital Life

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by Melody Condron, author of [Managing the Digital You: Where and How to Keep and Organize Your Digital Life](#) (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017)



1. Start by making a list of what digital stuff you have and where it is stored (work/home computer, phone, tablets, CDs, etc.). Knowing what you have is the first step!
2. Decide what items are a priority to you personally (digital photos? email?)—and don't spend too much time worrying about the rest. You DON'T have to organize it all. [Preview them here](#). Have you tried our Historical Dictionaries database? If not, please preview the database here: <https://historicaldictionaries.com/>.
3. Spend some time setting up an automated backup system so your stuff is protected without having to do it manually—or worse, having to recreate it when it is lost.
4. Learn how to batch change file & photo names so you don't have to do it all manually.
5. Delete bad & duplicate digital photos from your devices often. Try doing it while in line at the store. Having less to organize and store makes those tasks easier.

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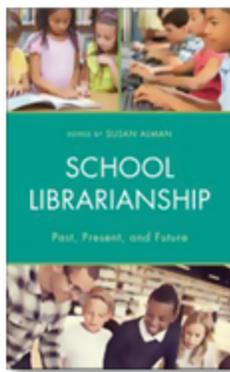
[Top Five Things You Can Do to Get Started Managing Your Digital Life](#)

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Reference Under the Radar: An MLS Degree between Two Covers

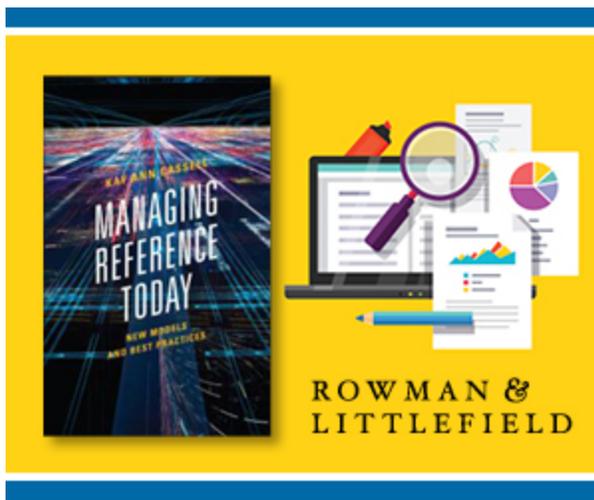
by Mike Bemis



Do you ever get the feeling that there is a lot you should have learned back in library school but didn't? Or that you should be keeping up with the professional-literature reviews but don't have the time? Maybe that a lot of useful stuff never got the attention it deserved in the first place? Yeah, me too. So I decided to do something about it. This is the first edition of what I hope will be a regular column here on *Top Shelf Reference*. Basically, what I want to do is say, "Hey, gang! Check this out!" and then present to my colleagues tips, tricks, tools, and tomes that I've discovered are of great service but don't seem to

be widely known or discussed in the larger library community.

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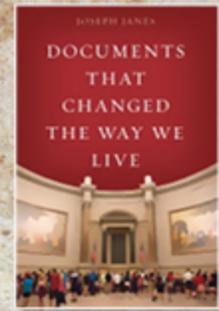
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Refer Madness: Finding Angels

by Chad Comello

A woman came to the desk and asked for a book about angels. The specific book she was looking for we didn't have, but I brought her to the 200s and showed her what we did have. She thanked me, and I left her to browse.

A few minutes later, she returned to the desk and asked if we had any books on grieving. She said her aunt had died recently, and she wanted to understand what her uncle was going through. He was 90, and every day he was different: he was up, then down, then up again. It could be the natural processes of his advanced age, she said, but grief surely had



*"Exemplary
work from one
of our most
observant
library thought
leaders!"*

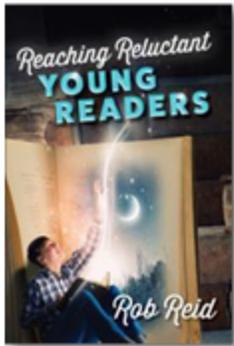
— SUSAN
HILDRETH,
FORMERLY THE
DIRECTOR OF
THE INSTITUTE
OF MUSEUM
AND LIBRARY
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something to do with it. I searched for what we had on grieving and saw a few in the 100s, close to where I'd left her before. So we went there again, and when browsing the shelf, I spotted a worn copy of *On Death and Dying*, by Elizabeth Kübler-Ross, who originated the famous five stages of grief. I opened it to the table of contents and showed it to her, and she said this was exactly what she needed.

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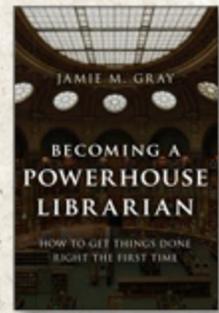
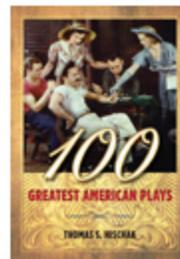


Featured Reference Review: 100 Greatest American Plays

by Carolyn Mulac

The best way to experience a play is to see it. If that isn't possible, reading is always an option. To prepare for either activity, a look at this helpful compilation is highly recommended.

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"[Gives] professionals the critical roadmap for re-envisioning themselves as the experts in the library's transformational processes."
— JULIE TODARO,
2016-2017
PRESIDENT,
AMERICAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

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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.





RebeccaAddison
@Icepacklady

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Looking at patron requests that came in around 2am last night. Sex, Unibomber, revolution... an undergrad had a busy night. #librarylife

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Anna Tschetter
@lcarslibrarian

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"Uggggggggghhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh." - An oral history of my morning on the reference desk. #saturdaylibrarian

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surlyspice
@surlyspice

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-morning shift
-at desk alone
-tomb quiet on entire floor
-step away to assist single patron
-phone rings #librarylife #saturdaylibrarian

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Steve the Librarian
@smolangrylibrrn

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"I'm looking for a blue book."
Okay...
"It was right here last time I came in."
Okay, when was that?
"1987? Ish?" #LibrarianProblems

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nimisha bhat
@mishiebhat

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[yelling] "Why are people dumb? Is there a book about that in here?" #overheardinthelibrary #LibrarianProblems

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