

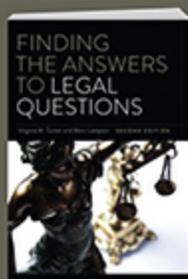
# BOOKLIST ONLINE'S **TOP SHELF** REFERENCE

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## May 2018

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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It's hard being a librarian. Everyone thinks you already know everything, and yet, that same everyone is also surprised that "you need a master's degree to do that??" (Thanks, Mom.)

Not only do we need a master's degree but we also need continuing education to keep up with everything we're already supposed to know (or at least how to access that everything). And then our jobs keep shifting—one minute we're reading dictionary definitions over the phone, and the next we're teaching someone who doesn't know how to use a mouse how to create a résumé, and then we're digging through military service records, and then we're making the doggone desk schedule.

Like I said, it's hard being a librarian. There's a lot to keep up with! This month's *Top Shelf Reference* is designed to make that part, at least, a little easier. First, Mike Bemis gives us some wit and wisdom about the internet. Then there's a featured review of a must-read book that will make communicating with everyone at work a lot easier. A smattering of tweets about librarianship will help you feel less alone. And, finally, the much-delayed "Professional Reading Roundup," which will give you lots to read up on when you don't have time to actually leave the library for training.

Say, another great professional opportunity is right on the horizon: [ALA Annual](#), in New Orleans. Who's going? Besides me? If the answer is you, stop by the *Booklist* booth and say hi! I may cajole you into sharing ideas for future *Top Shelf* newsletters. It is equally likely that I will cajole you into sharing resources for attractive comfort shoes. Hope to see you all there!

—Susan Maguire  
Senior Editor, Collection Development and Library Outreach,  
*Booklist*  
[smaguire@ala.org](mailto:smaguire@ala.org)  
[@Booklist\\_Susan](https://twitter.com/Booklist_Susan)



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Edited by  
PAUL GLASSMAN  
AND JUDY DYKI

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# Conducting the Reference Interview

THIRD EDITION

Catherine Sheldrick Ross,  
Kirsti Nilsen, and  
Marie L. Radford

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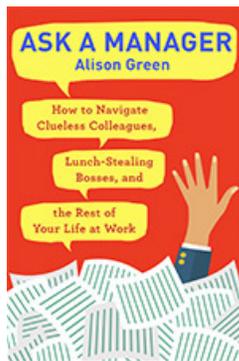


## Reference under the Radar

Mike Bemis

Who—besides myself—is sick to their stomachs at hearing for the one thousand and umpteenth time that "people like to find; only librarians like to search"?

Feel free to throw up now and avoid the rush. [read more](#)→



## Featured Reference Review: *Ask A Manager*

Fine, so *Ask A Manager* is not technically a reference book. But Alison Green's blog was a great help to me when I was a new supervisor, suddenly responsible for the performance of 25 circ-staff employees. *Ask A Manager* gave me language to confront issues, methods to improve morale, and an occasional relieved laugh that at least my workplace wasn't as bad as all that. Her book does much of the same, and I suggest it to any librarian who has more management responsibilities than she feels prepared for. [read more](#)→

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A Genealogy Handbook for Librarians

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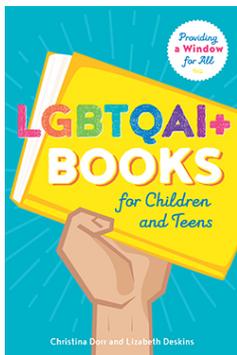
**Marie R.**  
@eleneariel

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Today in [#librarylife](#) mysteries: found a pair of jeans and a shirt, inside-out and likely hastily-removed, on the front lawn.

11:11 AM - 11 May 2018

Patron shenanigans, bureaucratic hilarity, research triumphs . . . these are all part of the life of a librarian. Fortunately, there's Twitter, where library folks can commiserate and celebrate. [read more](#)→



## Professional Reading Roundup

Susan Maguire

It's been a minute since the last "Professional Reading Roundup", so here are a selection of the materials we reviewed that would be good additions to your professional-reading collections. All of our professional-reading reviews are online exclusives; you can find them by logging in to [booklistonline.com](http://booklistonline.com) and doing an advanced search for "Reference Library Science." [read more](#)→

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