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REFERENCE

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August 2018

- Notes from the Field: The National Indian Law Library
- Featured Reference Review
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FROM THE EDITOR



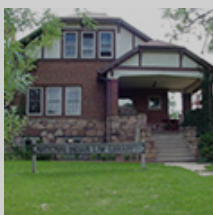
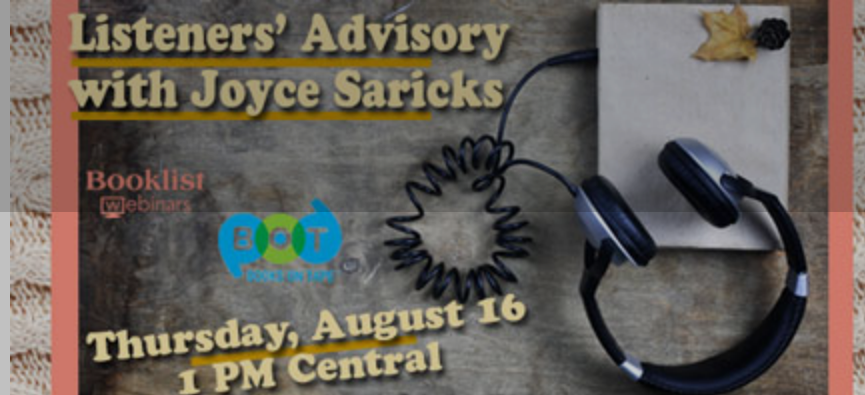
When I worked the reference desk, it took very little nudging to get lost in a Wikipedia wormhole. I know, I know—Wikipedia isn't a great reference source (although folks are starting to question that notion), but I'd suddenly forget what Ariadne's deal was and then I'd be looking at other Greek legends and Renaissance painters and chiaroscuro and olive oil and Turkish wrestling.

None of this information has been useful in my real life. (Although I do take a certain amount of pride in knowing how to pronounce *chiaroscuro*. Not that it comes up very often. OK, I may bring it up more often than it strictly needs to be brought up. But I can say it, dammit!) Still, I cannot be stopped. And it's not just because Wikipedia's hyperlinks facilitate the addictive time-suck of minutiae. It's that I've always been drawn to bits of inconsequential knowledge, no matter what the format. I can barely walk past an encyclopedia without perusing at least one entry. I can't overlook an almanac without filling my head with at least one useless fact. Even the dictionary! The print dictionary! Like, the book version!

Something about flipping through the pages (paper or virtual—see what I did there??) of neatly organized information is just so . . . satisfying.

I know I'm not alone in this. I know you, dear reader, are a fellow information nerd. And I am here for you. All of us at *Booklist* are here for you. This newsletter is here for you. Because in it, you'll find a roundup of some excellent reference materials that we reviewed online, some tweets from fellow information nerds who attended ALA's Annual Conference in New Orleans, a featured review of an encyclopedia that just begs to be browsed, and an interview with a librarian who specializes in tribal law research—and if you think I didn't have 600,000 nerdy questions for her, well, you don't know me at all.

—Susan Maguire
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Notes from the Field: The National Indian Law Library

Susan Maguire

Many librarians dread legal questions from patrons. Now imagine that you're dealing with several different systems of law. If you're Anne Lucke of the Native American Rights Fund, you do this all the time—serving a diverse base of patrons using resources from federal, state, and especially tribal law. Anne and I talked about tribal law and what it applies to and what it's like to be a law librarian serving so many different nations.

[read more→](#)



Featured Reference Review: *Horror Literature through History*

As you start planning fall and Halloween programming, or if you were inspired by our August issue and the SF/Fantasy & Horror, or if you just want to brush up on your readers'-advisory skills, use your valuable work time browsing through this engaging encyclopedia of books I'm too scared to read.

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LET'S TALK YA
FALL ANNOUNCEMENTS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 21 • 1 PM CENTRAL

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#TWITTERREFERENCE: ALA Annual Edition



Audrey Barbakoff
@The_Bookaneer

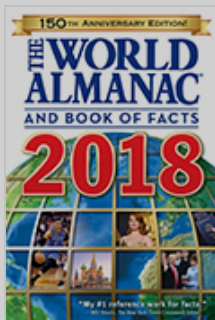
Follow

Presenters referring to the library as a "trusted space". I like that better than "neutral" or "safe" - it implies a responsibility on our end to actively uphold that trust, instead of a passive role. #alaac18

4:41 PM - 23 Jun 2018

Starting on June 21, New Orleans was overrun by librarians—every city should be so lucky!—for ALA's Annual Conference. Many who couldn't let the good times roll in person followed the action on Twitter with #alaac18. Here are a few highlights.

[read more→](#)



Online Exclusives: Reference Roundup, 2018 (Part 1)

Biz Hyzy

There is only so much paper in the world, but we here at *Booklist* won't let that stop us from reviewing the stuff that you need for your library. Here is a roundup of online exclusive reference reviews that appeared on *Booklist Online* between January 2018 and June 2018. Be sure to click through to read the full reviews.

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