

# TOP SHELF

## REFERENCE

A BOOKLIST NEWSLETTER

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### December 2018

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### FROM THE EDITOR

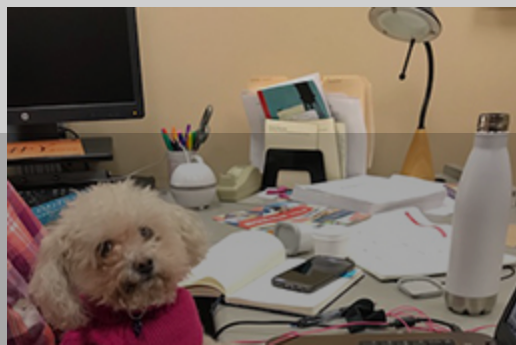
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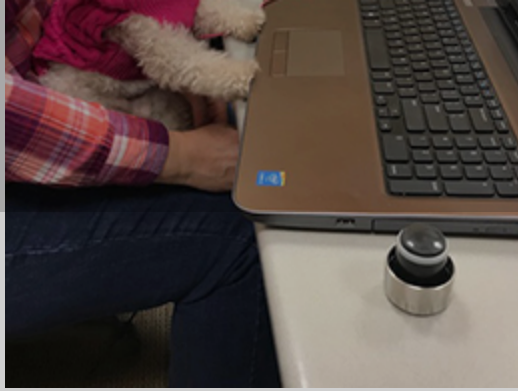


When I'm walking along Michigan Avenue, under the twinkling holiday lights and festive window dressings, among the throngs of out-of-towners wearing inadequate outerwear, I think to myself, "holy crap: please just move out of the way so I can get to my daggun bus."

Maybe it's because I've been spoiled by working in libraries. The time between Thanksgiving and New Year's was always a pretty quiet one—patrons' leisure time seems to evaporate in the holiday melee, or it's too cold to leave the house (or both). Programming slows down, which is good, because staff parties ramp up. Is there anything better in the world than a library potluck? All these years later, I still dream of Shirley's apple cake . . .

Alas, now that I have sold my soul to the cutthroat world of publishing, I am chained to my desk year-round. Why, just look how hard they had me working on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving:





Ha ha, JK: that's my dog, Starr, who I brought to work with me, but please don't tell anyone because I'm not sure if that's actually allowed. Like I said, *cutthroat*.

Anyhoo, as we close out 2018, I wanted to leave you with a few resources to wrap the year up right. First up is the E-reference Update, which used to appear in the November 15 print issue. We decided to swap it out with reviews for digital products (which you can find [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#)), but we didn't want to give it up entirely. Next, there's the second Professional Reading Roundup of the year, for all of your staff-, collection-, and building-development needs. Then there's a convenient list of online exclusive reference reviews and, finally, a featured reference review of a book you can use when people say, "Global warming? Then why is it snowing out??"

All of us here at *Booklist* (including Starr) wish you happy, safe, and delicious holidays. See you next year!

—Susan Maguire

Senior Editor, Collection Development and Library Outreach, *Booklist*

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## E-reference Update: Fall 2018

Susan Maguire

In the past, we've featured this list of what's new and updated from e-reference publishers in the print magazine, but with all the hyperlinks and such, it made more sense to move this valuable collection-development list online. (Which conveniently gave us more room to run e-reference reviews. Huzzah!) [read more](#)→



## Professional Reading Roundup: Winter 2018-19

Susan Maguire

If your professional New Year's resolution is to up your librarian game—or the librarian game of your staff—here is a list of recently reviewed professional development titles to help you do just that.

*Booklist*: here for you. [read more](#)→

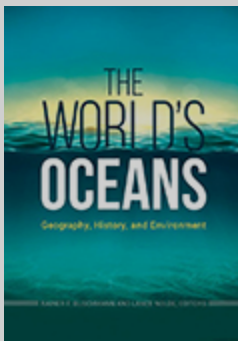


## Online Exclusives: Reference, 2018, Part 2

Susan Maguire

Would that the pages of *Booklist* were infinite, but alas. The good news is, someone made up the internet, and we used it to house the reviews that we couldn't fit in the magazine. (FYI—you can get regular online exclusive reviews—basically a free issue of *Booklist*!—by signing up for the Online Exclusives newsletter at

[booklistonline.com/newsletters](http://booklistonline.com/newsletters).) [read more](#)→



## Featured Reference Review: *The World's Oceans*

Maybe you've heard that the environment is in a little bit of a man-made pickle. Oops! Reliable information on environmental science is more important than ever, and *The World's Oceans* provides just that, focusing on the ways humans interact with our watery environments.

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