

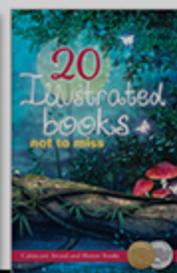
TOP SHELF

REFERENCE
A BOOKLIST NEWSLETTER

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August 2019

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FROM THE EDITOR



Like a vacation or a really great book or a sharing-size bag of M&Ms that you didn't mean to eat all by yourself, all good things must come to an end.

So, dear friends, must *Top Shelf Reference*.

Alas, this is the farewell issue of *Top Shelf Reference*, and it has been my pleasure to bring you the best and, well, oddest in the world of reference for the past year and a half, after taking over the reins from the delightfully capable Rebecca Vnuk.

Fear not: you will find your content-itch scratched by *Corner Shelf*, a robust newsletter that covers that funny ol' area between collection development and readers' advisory—surely you all know what it's like to wear many hats? In future issues, you'll see the latest [Professional Reading Roundup](#) and other [reference lists](#) that will be useful as you manage your collections, and there is also much that will be of interest to those of you who sit on a public-service desk.

Before we close this chapter, though, let's take a trip down memory lane to some favorite *Top Shelf Reference* features. Dave Tyckoson tackled the old library-versus-Google question in the very [first issue](#), and it's still a relevant reminder of why reference work is so important. Of course, it doesn't always feel important, as Chad Comello liked to remind us in his [Refer Madness](#) column that highlighted the often-absurd nature of public-service work. If you ever felt like your work wasn't appreciated, surely you got a chuckle out of Nicolette Warisse Sosulski's [Real Life Reference](#), which often featured her unwitting family and a lot of hilarious wordplay that celebrated the archaeological-level digging required of a dedicated librarian. Speaking of digging, you could always count on Mike Bemis to introduce—or re-introduce—you to a reference book that that went, well, [Reference Under the Radar](#).

Top Shelf Reference may be going the way of the semi-complete set of Funk & Wagnalls Encyclopedias from 1988 that keeps ending up in your donation bin, but we'll always have the memories. And *Booklist*'s regular reference coverage isn't going anywhere! I hope you'll join me over at [Corner Shelf](#), or, if audio is more your medium, try our new podcast [Shelf Care](#).

It's been a delight to serve you as you serve your patrons. Keep in touch, friends, and stay gold, Ponyboy. (I had to end it with a reference. Because this was a newsletter about reference. Get it? OK, don't miss me too much!)

—Susan Maguire

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

smaguire@ala.org

[@Booklist_Susan](#)

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