

# TOP SHELF

## REFERENCE

A BOOKLIST NEWSLETTER

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### May 2019

- Notes from the Field: Real-Life Reference
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### FROM THE EDITOR

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One of the hallmarks of starting a new job in Library Land is learning processes that don't always jive with the current reality. Like, the shelving carts are arranged a certain way to coordinate with the layout of the building . . . but collections shifted two years ago and the cart arrangements weren't updated. But all the staff who shelve are so used to the carts being the way they are that learning a new system feels like much more work.

It reminds me of when I first moved to West Virginia and, due to a complete lack of inner compass, I found myself asking for directions pretty much every time I left my house. These directions often involved the phrase, "Turn where the old Shoney's used to be." Which! I mean! If the Shoney's isn't there anymore, how do I know where to turn!

The point is, keeping things up to date sometimes feels like more work than it's worth, but it also means me driving in fewer circles along the Kanawha River. (That's a West Virginia reference!) All of this is a metaphor for *Booklist*!

The only thing that's changed more than reference services in the past few years is reference publishing. Many of you remember getting the *Reference Books Bulletin*, a whole separate publication devoted to—you guessed it!—reference books. Now we incorporate our print reference coverage in with the rest of the adult nonfiction. It works! It works just fine.

I hope you'll all take a moment to answer the brief survey below (seriously, like five questions) to let us know how you use *Booklist* to meet your reference needs.

As for me, I'm takin' the summer off! More specifically, *Top Shelf Reference* is taking the summer off. I'll still be here at *Booklist*, doin' my regular *Booklist* stuff, and not only because my apartment isn't air conditioned but my office is. Although that is a big part of it.

I hope your summer is fruitful and your travel well-directed, and that all of your changes are well-timed and useful.

Happy summer,

—Susan Maguire

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**Booklist's** #READGRAPHIC

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The graphic features a stylized illustration of a person's eyes and a hand pointing towards the text.



## Notes from the Field: Real-Life Reference

Susan Maguire

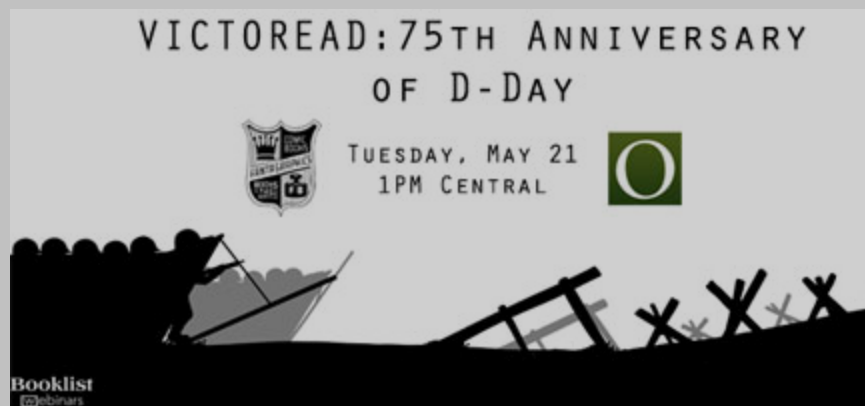
More like Hooray! from the Field. Our own Nicolette Warisse Sosulski was just selected as the 2019 winner of the Margaret E. Monroe Library Adult Services Award from RUSA. Anyone who has read her "Real-Life Reference" column knows she's got the [reference chops](#) and a [passion for sharing information](#) (not to mention a willingness to occasionally [use her family as reference guinea pigs](#). . .). Congrats to Nicolette! [read more](#)→



## Professional Reading Roundup

Susan Maguire

Professional reading materials are reviewed exclusively on *Booklist Online*, and to make sure you haven't missed any, we present a roundup of some of the titles reviewed from December 2018 to May 2019. Be sure to click through to read the full reviews. [read more](#)→



VICTOREAD: 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

TUESDAY, MAY 21 1PM CENTRAL

Booklist @booklist

The graphic features a silhouette of a soldier on a beach during D-Day, with a large 'O' logo and a crest.



## Help Us Help You

Susan Maguire

It will come as a surprise to literally none of you *Top Shelf Reference* readers that the reference publishing landscape has changed greatly over the past few years. We've been making changes to help you all (and us) keep up with what your libraries and your patrons need. Now we'd like to hear from you. Please take a moment to fill out this quick survey to help us help you a little better. [take the survey](#)→



## Featured Reference Review: *Frontier Women and Their Art*

I have shared many (many) times the fact that I take a nerdy kind of delight in a reference book because I can learn a lot about a little or a little about a lot, depending on my mood. Here's a single-volume work that fits the bill just fine, touching on American history, folk and fine art, women's studies, and mimes, from our former *Reference Books Bulletin* editor (and current reference reviewer) Mary Ellen Snodgrass. [read more](#)→

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