

INTRODUCTION

WROTE THIS BOOK FOR A SIMPLE REASON: I NEEDED A CURRENT ANNOTATED bibliography of library science but couldn't find one. My goals were twofold: to collect as much of the available information sources regarding various aspects of the profession as reasonably possible and to then organize them in a logical fashion. It is my fervent hope that my colleagues will find this to be a useful work as they conduct research in our field of endeavor.

Written specifically with working librarians in mind, this volume should also appeal to library students, library educators, and to a lesser extent bibliographers in general. Of course, anyone wishing to survey the current landscape of library literature should find this book helpful.

Books and print periodicals are the focus of this annotated bibliography. Electronic journals, websites, and databases also receive attention, but to a much lesser degree. Print works with a copyright date of 2000 to, generally, early 2012 make up the bulk of this volume, although some classic LIS titles are featured in special "Historic Interest" sidebars. A case in point is the one in chapter 22, which discusses the *ARBA Guide to Library Science Literature* and its several annual supplements. Readers are directed to this resource should they desire to locate professional material for the period 1970 through 1999.

I enlisted OCLC WorldCat, local library collections within Minneapolis/St. Paul (most notably the LIS collection at the library of the College of St. Catherine, which supports a library school there), and review copies from publishers along with their websites and catalogs to find suitable material for inclusion in this volume. Emphasis is on usefulness and practicality for the working librarian—thus the many "how-to" manuals, handbooks, and other materials that may be employed for on-the-job use.

ENTRIES

There are two types of entries herein. Full annotations include complete bibliographic information, such as title, author/editor, publisher, and date of publication, as well as ISBN or ISSN, as appropriate, and a URL for websites, along with commentary on the

work at hand. Citations include just the bare-bones bibliographic data and are listed under the heading "Further Resources." In either case, entries follow the provisions set forth in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, which for the past century has been widely regarded as the standard of manuscript preparation. The specific criteria I used to select a particular resource for either the full treatment or the more concise listing appear below. It should be noted that there were some resources reviewed that, in my professional opinion, met few or none of these standards and therefore were not listed at all. Fortunately, the level of quality of library literature is quite high overall.

Resources that met the following four criteria include full bibliographic data as well as commentary:

Timeliness of information. Reflects current trends, issues, or historical perspective.

Authority of resource or author qualifications. Clearly indicates who the author is, what organization(s) he or she is affiliated with, and if the work had sponsorships.

Professional standing. Is quoted widely and often cited in lists of references, bibliographies, or works cited in other resources examined during primary research. Primary and secondary sources were clearly listed.

Special features. Contains special features that are unusual or particularly helpful (e.g., tables, diagrams, step-by-step instructions, case studies, historical context).

Resources that did not merit annotation are nonetheless applicable to the specific chapter topic and provide supplementary or alternative information not covered by the annotated entries. A further benefit of listing these additional resources is that it allows for the inclusion of much more material and gives the reader a sense of where publishing activity is most prevalent. It probably comes as no surprise, for example, that the chapter covering information technology is one of the largest in this book.

For annotated entries, the thrust of the notes is to survey the work's contents and the aims of

the author/editor. Although many annotated bibliographies attempt to be evaluative or critical, I contend that a particular work's usefulness is ultimately up to the reader. It is not a bibliographer's place to dictate what should or should not be read. (Nonetheless, if I considered a work to be wholly inappropriate or poorly executed, I excluded it from this listing.)

Readers will note that the majority of the entries are for narrative works. Some reference titles are included, but they form a minority. Not only does this avoid unnecessary duplication, it allows more space for LIS titles not reviewed elsewhere. Dictionaries and encyclopedias of library and information science are covered pretty comprehensively in *American Reference Books Annual*, published by Libraries Unlimited.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Chapters appear in alphabetical order by title, each one covering a specific aspect of library science, such as cataloging and classification, collection management, readers' advisory, and so on. Each chapter begins with several representative Library of Congress subject headings. I recognize that this book is not comprehensive. Readers who wish to find further titles on a particular topic may use these headings to locate still more material on WorldCat and local library electronic card catalogs.

Each chapter is subdivided by format: books, periodicals, websites (a category that includes online-only articles), and databases (if applicable). Sidebars are scattered throughout the book. "Historic Interest" sidebars mention classic but out-of-print titles that are too important to be ignored. "FYI" sidebars alert readers to sources of information which, though on the whole are outside the scope of this work, may nevertheless contain material pertinent to the subject of library science.

Finally, two appendixes list and comment on professional organizations, the first for ALA subunits and the second for international and regional library associations.