

# Reference Sources

for Small and  
Medium-sized  
Libraries

4th edition

# Reference Sources for Small and Medium-sized Libraries

4th edition

*Compiled by the*  
Ad Hoc Committee for the Fourth Edition  
of *Reference Sources for Small and*  
*Medium-sized Libraries*  
Reference and Adult Services Division  
American Library Association

Jovian P. Lang, OFM, and Deborah C. Masters  
co-editors and chairpersons

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## Preface

The majority of Americans are first exposed to reference books (other than the general encyclopedia or dictionary found in a home library) through a public, school, or college library collection, frequently a small or medium-sized one. In addition, many Americans destined never to use large public or university libraries must depend on the country's small and medium-sized libraries or the branch libraries of a large public library to supply information provided in reference collections.

This fourth edition, now entitled **REFERENCE SOURCES FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED LIBRARIES**, is a complete revision of the earlier editions issued under the title *Reference Books for Small and Medium-sized Libraries* in 1968, 1973, and 1979. The title change reflects the growing number of reference sources available in microform and online formats, rather than as traditional print sources. A similar change was made several years ago in the name of the committee (Reference Sources) within the Reference and Adult Services Division of the American Library Association that prepares the annual list of outstanding reference sources.

In addition to identifying new editions of standard sources listed previously, this edition represents an approximate increase of 80 percent in the number of entries over the previous edition. There are several reasons for this increase. The scope of the book was expanded to include reference materials for children and young adults as well as adults; sources in other formats such as microforms and databases were added, and out-of-print sources considered to be basic reference sources were included. Though out-of-print sources were deliberately excluded from previous editions, since they were not readily available for libraries for purchase, it was felt that such titles should at least be identified among the basic holdings for small and medium-sized libraries, regardless of availability.

Like the third edition, **REFERENCE SOURCES FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED LIBRARIES (RSSML)** is geared not just to public libraries, but to college libraries, and also to large secondary school libraries. In many cases, several comparable titles are included. Libraries already owning one or more of the similar titles may not need the others. Larger libraries may want to consider purchasing these complementary sources for their collections. Besides being aware of their own scope and clientele, libraries will, of course, be limited by their budgetary constraints. In general, sources were not excluded from consideration by virtue of cost alone. **RSSML** is designed

## PREFACE

to serve a variety of purposes: as a collection evaluation checklist and selection tool for reference and collection development librarians, a supplement to texts for basic reference courses in library schools, and an aid in basic reference work itself to identify an appropriate reference source likely to be owned by the smaller library to use in answering a particular reference question.

Like earlier editions, this edition was prepared by an ad hoc committee of the Reference and Adult Services Division of ALA. In this case, all the members but one were drawn from the membership of the Reference Sources Committee of RASD over the four years since the last edition, the committee that prepared the annual lists of outstanding reference sources for those years. The additional member was charged specifically with identifying reference sources for children and young adults which had not been within the scope of the annual lists during those years. Future editions of the book will be the responsibility of the Reference Sources Committee, with the chair of that committee appointed to serve a four-year term to coincide with the publication cycle of each quadriennial edition of *RSSML*.

Committee members were each primarily responsible for the particular chapters in the book where their names appear, although the committee met as a group to discuss the titles for each chapter and to determine some common criteria for scope, format, etc. Alice Smith was responsible for identifying specific titles for children and young adults throughout the book, as well as the adult titles that were also appropriate for use with those audiences. In addition, we would like to acknowledge participation of the following individuals in helping to prepare specific sections of the book: Jean Amelang for the chapter on biography, genealogy, and names; Michael Doellman for the chapters on games and sports and crafts and hobbies; Virginia Clark, reference books editor for *Choice*, for her active participation in the committee's discussions and her many helpful recommendations on titles to include in the new edition; Helen Cline, Managing Editor of ALA's Books and Pamphlets, for her patient counseling and advice over the many months that the manuscript was in preparation; Evelyn Jankowski, Father Lang's graduate assistant, for extensive work on the bibliographic verification of specific titles included in the book; and Patricia Wiecezak who did all the typing and keying of the manuscript throughout the project. These people made significant contributions to the book in its several stages of preparation, and the committee is grateful to all of them for their contribution to the final product.

In addition to the selection criteria already identified, those related to audience, scope, and purpose of the book, the following criteria were also applied in the selection of titles for inclusion. Titles should comply with the conventional definition of a reference source: a work compiled specifically to supply ready information on a certain subject or group of subjects in a form which will facilitate its easy use. Pamphlets, reference works of purely local scope, highly specialized and foreign-language publications as well as "how to do it" publications were generally excluded. For nonprint reference sources, microforms should be of a standard magnification and have clear headers with identifying information for each microfiche or film reel. Databases should be publicly available on a "per use" basis. Originally,

the cut-off date for publication of titles to be included was 1981. Owing to the duration of the project, in fact, a majority of appropriate titles with a 1982 imprint are incorporated, and 1983 new editions of titles are included in some cases.

For each title, the standard bibliographic elements are listed: author, title, publisher, date of publication, number of pages, and price. In addition, ISBN or ISSN is supplied for books and serials whenever these numbers could be identified; these numbers are truncated when new editions are regularly published. For government publications, Superintendent of Documents and stock numbers are supplied. The price for serials is subscription price per year unless otherwise noted; initial date and frequency of publication are also given for serials. In general, chapters of the book reflect major divisions of the Dewey Decimal Classification, and are arranged in the order of that classification scheme. Within chapters, there are both subject and form subdivisions, depending on the nature of the material, with sources arranged alphabetically by title within sections. A large number of cross-references have been provided throughout to direct the reader to related titles in other sections of the book. There is a complete index by author and title at the end, referring to the sequential entry numbers throughout. The index also refers to former titles and to titles mentioned only in annotations by providing the entry number of the source under which these other titles are referenced. For all titles, bibliographic information was verified in the current editions of *Books in Print*, *Publishers' Trade List Annual*, *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory*, *Irregular Serials & Annuals*, OCLC, publishers' catalogs, or direct contact with publishers, as necessary. Every effort was made to confirm bibliographic information, price, and availability if at all possible.

A few standardized abbreviations and references have been used. For titles issued in cumulative volumes at regular intervals, a reference "See their catalog for cumulations" takes the place of extensive listings of individual volumes with price, ISBN, etc., for each. Indexes and other print sources that are also available as databases have the basic bibliographical information followed by the phrase "Available online." Typically, this availability is through one of the major online vendors, BRS, DIALOG, and/or SDC. When necessary, the following abbreviations are used in citations: "v" for volume, "op" for out of print, and "\$na" for price not available. For government publications, "Govt. Print. Off." indicates the standard availability of documents published by the Government Printing Office through the Superintendent of Documents. Numbers provided for government publications are abbreviated by "SuDoc" for Superintendent of Documents classification number, and "S/N" for Stock Number to be used in ordering. Where the letters "J" or "Y" appear at the end of an annotation, they indicate that either librarians working with children ("J" for juvenile) and young adults ("Y" for young adults) would find the material helpful or the material would be useful for children and young adults themselves.

The new edition of *RSSML* represents the combined efforts of a number of people, and the investment of hours of work in selecting titles, verifying bibliographic information, preparing informative annotations, and organizing the material in a way that facilitates its access and use. It is our hope

## PREFACE

that the profession will find the fourth edition to be as useful a tool as its predecessors.

DEBORAH C. MASTERS  
*Co-editor*



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# 1 Selection Aids for Reference Materials

JOVIAN P. LANG, OFM

This chapter lists aids useful in the selection and evaluation of current reference materials for small and medium-sized libraries. While a number of general selection aids are included, the annotations for these titles are directed to their coverage of reference materials, rather than to their use in the selection of other types of materials. For retrospective collection development, consult chapter 2, Bibliographies and General Sources; Bibliographies; Collection Development Sources.

Additional information on many of the titles in this book can be found in the aids listed.

## Books and Annuals

- 1 American reference books annual. Bohdan S. Wynar et al., eds. Libraries Unlimited, 1970-. Annual. \$47.50. ISBN 0-87287-.

Describes in classified order reference books published in the United States or distributed here by American distributors. Critical annotations and citations to reviews appearing elsewhere are included. Index in each annual volume; cumulative index to first ten volumes available. (*Index to American reference books annual, 1970-74*. 1974. \$18.50. ISBN 0-87287-101-0; *Index to American reference books annual, 1975-79*. Libraries Unlimited, 1979. \$35. ISBN 0-87287-199-1; ISSN 0192-6969.) Smaller libraries may prefer *Recommended reference books for small and medium-sized libraries and media centers*. B. S. Wynar, ed. 263p. Libraries Unlimited, 1981-. \$19.50. ISSN 0277-5948. Reprints about one-third of the year's reviews in *ARBA*, tagging them for type of library; one-fifth for media centers, three-fourths for colleges, more for public libraries.

- 2 Best reference books 1970-1980; titles of lasting value from American reference books annual. Susan Holte and Bohdan S. Wynar. 480p. Libraries Unlimited, 1981. \$30. ISBN 0-87287-255-6.

A selection of over 900 reference titles with annotations and references to reviews selected from the first twelve volumes of *American reference books annual* (1). Excludes serials, travel guides, and works about individual authors. Index.

- 3 Building a children's literature collection; a suggested basic reference collection for academic libraries and a suggested basic collection of children's books. 2d rev. ed. Harriet B. Quimby and Margaret Mary Kimmel. 48p. Choice, 1983. Paper \$9.95. ISBN 0-914492-06-3.

Over fifty percent of the more than 1500 titles included in this work are new additions since the first revised edition was published in 1978 (ISBN 0-914492-04-7. op). This updated edition is in two parts: (1) a bibliographic essay citing and discussing the most important reference works for a study of children's literature; (2) a listing of books for a basic collection of children's literature. The basic list includes picture and easy books, fiction, folk literature, biography, poetry, and nonfiction. Authoritative and highly selective. J Y

- 4 Canadian reference sources; a selective guide. 2d ed. Dorothy E. Ryder, ed. 311p. Canadian Library Assn., 1982. \$20. ISBN 0-88802-156-9.

An annotated guide to reference works about Canada in general, the ten provinces, the territories, and the cities of Ottawa, Montreal, and Toronto. Other sections treat history, humanities, science, and social sciences with subheadings. Author-title-selected subject index. Supplemented by annual list of Canadian reference sources in the August issue of *Canadian library journal*.

- 5 Children's literature; a guide to reference sources. 2d supplement. Virginia Haviland and Margaret N. Coughlin, comps. 413p. Library of Congress, 1977. \$7.75. ISBN 0-8444-0215-X.

Some 929 titles published through 1974 are added to the Haviland guide of 1966 and its 1972 supplement. Annotated entries describe the value and appeal of each title. Arrangement is the same as in the 1974 edition, with new sections for nonprint materials, mention of children's books in translation, and reference materials concerning French-Canadian books on children's literature. As with the previous publications, this is a "must" for all public, university, or college libraries supporting the teaching of children's literature and for district media centers connected with