

***Librarian's Guide to Online Searching*. 3rd ed. Suzanne S. Bell. Santa Barbara, CA; Libraries Unlimited, 2012. 287 pp. ISBN 9781610690355 (pbk.) – ISBN 9781610690362 (ebook).**

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Every librarian is faced at some time with explaining database searching to individual users or groups. Unfortunately, since each database is unique, instruction can be confusing. Author Suzanne Bell has years of online searching and experience teaching database use and does an excellent job of sharing her expertise with the reader.

The third edition of *Librarian's Guide to Online Searching* demonstrates more databases, both general and specific, offering search tips from determining terms to applying limits, and provides an increased number of screen shots, allowing the reader to follow the search process step by step. The table of contents and index make it easy to access specific information, such as individual subscription databases, Boolean operators, and government websites. When jargon is used, an explanation is supplied, resulting in a very user-friendly book. This edition is impressive, keeping the best feature of the first two editions, the overview of database structure (Chapter 1) and The Searcher's Toolkit (Chapters 2 and 3). As in earlier editions, chapters end with Valuable Exercises and Points to Consider, Suggested Reading, and Notes; some chapters also include Beyond the Textbook exercises.

The two-part Searcher's Toolkit provides not only an excellent introduction for new researchers but also a solid review for those who have years of database searching experience. Chapters 4-8 look at individual subscription databases, using actual searches with abundant screen shots for demonstration. Types of databases described include Social Science, Science and Medicine, Bibliographic, Humanities, and Numerical, with suggestions on how to best focus each type of search. Chapter 9 provides tips on working with the individual researcher, the reference interview, and determining what type of material is needed, and Chapter 11 focuses on evaluating databases. This edition also offers a new section (Chapter 10) introducing free websites the author admires and uses, along with tips on how to determine the best ones for the purpose.

Chapter 12, Teaching Other People about Databases, should be valuable to all librarians and desk workers as it offers many suggestions for working with individuals at the desk or instructing a one-time or full-semester class. The principles and tips offered are excellent, though not revolutionary—the type of information that librarians and instruction librarians should review it often to maintain and improve their abilities to perform and teach basic research skills. The book supplies an extensive list of references providing the reader with opportunity for further study. Another new feature is www.LibrariansGuide.Info, which allows the readers to ask questions, view video demonstrations, and find information on database updates.

The small font size makes the text difficult to read for longer periods of time, but the book is well worth the effort and should be near every library reference desk as it is a quick and thorough resource for any desk worker. The information on Google Scholar and other free websites alone make the book well worth the purchase price, but the addition of the companion website should allow the material to remain current longer than a print book.