

Appearing for the first time in *American Libraries*

# OUTSTANDING REFERENCE SOURCES OF 1983

A compilation of distinguished reference titles selected by the Reference Sources Committee of the ALA Reference and Adult Services Division

edited by K. M. Rosswurm

**T**HIS YEAR'S LIST IS A SPECIAL event. It marks the first time this annual compilation appears in *American Libraries*, and the sources themselves are exceptional. They will rightfully take their place among the more than 1,700 works the Reference Sources Committee has chosen over the years.

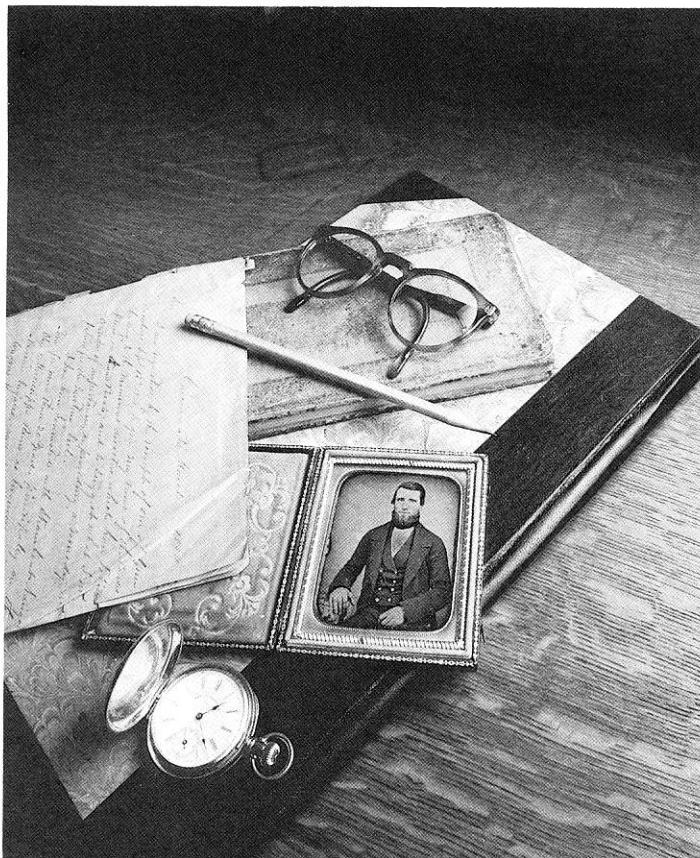
The 25 previous lists of outstanding reference sources appeared in *Library Journal*; the committee itself was originally named the *Library Journal* List of Reference Books Committee. The RASD Board of Directors decided at the 1983 San Antonio Midwinter Meeting that this annual list should be published in an ALA membership journal. *American Libraries* was the logical choice. Now the RASD Committee selections, the product of many hours of volunteer effort, can be distributed freely to all ALA members in their copies of *AL*.

As reflected in the committee's selections, 1983 reference publishing was not especially deep, but it was strong. Some of these sources are sure to become classics. Of particular merit are legal and biographical works. Two multivolume legal encyclopedias are sterling products with wide audience appeal. Two of the selected biographical dictionaries, one on Afro-Americans and the other on dance, should take prominent positions on any reference shelf.

Other works of particular note are two sumptuous atlases, one of the oceans, the other of the Islamic world; a long-awaited

Latin dictionary; a revision of the standard companion to American literature; the first few volumes of a most promising encyclopedia of the Middle Ages; and a wonderfully comprehensive guide to American foreign relations.

Though the committee believes that this



*A researcher beginning a family history may learn what can be found in government records by consulting the Guide to Genealogical Records in the National Archives, published by National Archives Trust Fund Board. Photo by Mike Mitchell, courtesy of the National Archives.*

list represents the year's outstanding reference sources, a number of notable works had to be excluded. Because the committee is to select the outstanding sources for small and medium-sized college and public libraries, some otherwise worthy, but too specialized sources were omitted. The most obvious example of this is the *Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan* (Kodansha: Harper, 1983, \$600).

Also excluded from the list are works in a set or series, the initial volume of which appeared in a previous year. Falling into this category is *American Women Writers* (abridged edition, Unger, 1983, 2-vol. pa., \$14.95). The original, unabridged version of this set appeared on the 1979 list of outstanding reference sources and is therefore not included this year.

Annals, yearbooks, foreign-language publications, and new editions are also omitted unless there are major changes in their content or arrangement. Pamphlets, works of purely local or regional interest, and how-to manuals are excluded as well.

The committee seriously considers reference sources in nonprint formats, including online databases, though none are included on this year's list. Such nonprint formats must, however, be readily available to small and medium-sized public and college libraries and must provide unique information or access to information unavailable through printed sources.

Though computers are a boon to reference work, they can also be crutches for lazy publishers and bibliographers. In examining hundreds of sources, the committee discovered a good many computer-generated bibliographies that lacked a telling editorial hand, or, for that matter, any editorial hand at all.

This compilation contains something for almost every library. Clearly, certain works will be more useful in some libraries than in others. Collection development librarians will have to determine for themselves the appropriateness of each source for their clientele.

Unless otherwise indicated, all sources on the list were published in 1983. A number of titles from 1982 are included, however, because they were published too late for consideration by last year's committee.

The members of the 1983 Reference Sources Committee are: Frances Cable, Pennsylvania State University Libraries, University Park; LaVerne Z. Coan, University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence; Betty A. Gard, Fritz Library, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks; Suzanne Holter, Dacus Library, Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C.; James R. Kuhlman, Ramsey Library, University of North Carolina at Asheville; Ellen Lodwick, Prince George's County Memorial Library—Laurel Branch, Md.; Ellen Safley, University of Texas at Dallas; Debby L. Simone, Gainesville Public Library, Fla.; Carol M. Tobin, General Reference Department, Princeton University Library, N.J.; and serving as chair, K. M. Rosswurm, Mount Vernon Public Library, N.Y.

The "Outstanding Reference Sources of 1983" will be on display at the Reference and Adult Services Division booth during the ALA Annual Conference in Dallas. After the conference, the books will be available for loan to any interested group for exhibits at regional, state, or local meetings for the cost of transportation. Those interested are encouraged to contact Andrew Hansen, Executive Director, Reference and Adult Services Division, American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, for further information.

attitudes toward Islam and provides a basis for subsequent discussions of Muslim historical periods and dynasties. The section "To Be A Muslim" depicts religious life, arts, and Islamic society in the modern world. Other special features include: a chronological table showing Islamic presence on various continents, a glossary, bibliography, gazetteer, and a superb index. From murals of the Safavid Empire to a contemporary pilgrimage to Mecca, this book illustrates the diversity of the Islamic people—one fifth of the world's population.

**A Concordance to the Apocrypha/Deuterocanonical Books of the Revised Standard Version**, derived from the Bible Data Bank. 479p. Eerdmans, 1983 (0-8028-2312-2), \$35.

An essential work for anyone studying the literature that evolved between the time of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. This is the first concordance to the Revised Standard Version of the Apocrypha, or Deuterocanonical Books, in Ro-

## Religion and psychology

**Atlas of the Islamic World Since 1500**, by Francis Robinson. 238p. Facts on File, 1982 (0-87196-629-8), \$35.

The essence of 500 years of Islamic civilization is captured in this beautiful book. The introduction describes Western



In the Anastasis Mosaic, W. Vault San Marco, Venice, Christ triumphs over death through his descent into hell, redeeming the righteous who died before him. The depiction appears in the Dictionary of the Middle Ages, vol. 1, copyright © 1982 American Council of Learned Societies, published by Charles Scribner's Sons. Photograph courtesy of Byzantine Photographic Collection, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.

man Catholic theology. Information is extracted from the Centre Informatique et Bible of Maredsous, Belgium. The volume contains entries for every word in the 1977 edition of the RSV Apocrypha/Deuterocanonicals. The only exceptions are words appearing so frequently as to be of little value in research. Biblical references and contexts of words are given in addition to the number of times a word occurs in the books; this figure is then converted to a percentage of the total number of words in those books. Accessibility is enhanced by the technique of grouping variant forms of one word under a consistent heading: e.g., "feet" is found under "foot." A unique tool, this concordance will become a standard in most libraries.

**Dictionary of Classical Mythology: Symbols, Attributes, and Associations**, by Robert E. Bell. 390p. ABC-Clio, 1982 (0-87436-305-5), \$26.50; (0-87436-023-4), pa. \$19.95.

The first stop for answers to such questions as "What name was given to the maidens who attracted sailors with their voices?" or "Who was chained to a pillar where an eagle daily consumed his liver?" Symbols, attributes, and associations surrounding characters in Greek and Roman mythology are organized alphabetically. Listings for concepts such as "fire," "locust," and "swiftness" are followed by concise descriptions of situations and characters. Cross-references add to the value of this work. An appendix contains personal names with references to main subject headings. Additional sections include alternate names of important gods and goddesses, and participants in heroic expeditions such as that of the Argonauts. Notes to primary sources are included. A well-organized, time-saving tool for all general reference collections.

**Encyclopedic Dictionary of Psychology**, edited by Rom Harré & Roger Lamb. 718p. MIT Pr., 1983 (0-262-08135-0), \$80.

The field of contemporary psychology, specifically psycholinguistics, neuropsychology, and cognitive psychology, is covered expertly in this single volume. In addition, the editors give objective treatment to "fringe" movements such as folk and popular psychologies. A total of 1,300 signed articles, varying in length from one paragraph to more than a page, are augmented by bibliographies that include popular as well as scholarly books and journal articles. Cross-references are abundant and diagrams and tables enhance the text. The index defines terms and also serves as a

means to locate major topics and concepts within articles. From "anorexia nervosa" to "est," this encyclopedic dictionary speaks to the specialist and the nonspecialist alike.

**Magic, Witchcraft and Paganism in America: a Bibliography**, compiled by J. Gordon Melton. 231p. Garland, 1982 (0-8240-9377-1), \$36.

Compiled by an eminent scholar, this bibliography offers an overview of the "American magical community" from Colonial times to the present. Concise introductions to each section yield insights into the history and contemporary philosophy of witchcraft, ritual magic, and neopaganism that derive from Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean. Background material is also supplied for the magic religions of Afro-Americans and Hawaiians, and the folk magic of the Mexican Southwest. Sources include books, periodical articles, pamphlets, and booklets. Three sections add to the usefulness of the work: periodicals that are issued within the magical religious community, those works in New York Public Library relating to witchcraft in the U.S., and an author index. This bibliography is not only comprehensive, it is thoroughly researched and a welcome addition to reference collections.

## Science and technology

**The A to Z of Women's Health: A Concise Encyclopedia**, by Christine Ammer. 481p. Cloth edition, Facts On File, 1983 (0-87196-785-5), \$19.95; paper edition, Everest House, 1983 (0-89696-173-7), \$13.95.

The purpose of this encyclopedia is to encourage women to take responsibility for their health by becoming aware of available care and treatment. The more than 900 entries, some several pages in length, cover a broad range of subjects including the maintenance of good health, principal diseases of women, weight control, and sexual behavior. The clear, concise language, dictionary format, numerous cross-references, and comprehensive subject index make this ideal for definitions and ready reference in both public and academic libraries.

**Dictionary of Information Technology**, compiled by Dennis Longley & Michael Shain. 379p. Wiley-Interscience, 1982 (0-471-89574-1), \$34.95

Over 6,000 terms are defined in brief but readable style. Information technology is taken in its broadest sense to include

printing, computers, photography, television, videotex, word processing, and business. Line drawings throughout are clear and relevant to the text. Generous cross-references and the inclusion of acronyms add to this work's usefulness. This should be the first dictionary to consult when explaining information technology jargon to the layperson.

**The Encyclopedia of Alcoholism**, by Robert O'Brien & Morris Chafetz. 378p. Facts On File, 1983 (0-87196-623-9), \$40.

Devoted to a wide variety of topics relating to alcoholism, this new encyclopedia is useful for the professional, the layperson, and the student. The definitions, ranging from one sentence to several pages, are nontechnical, informative, and cross-referenced. Other features are an extensive bibliography and numerous tables and charts. 43 tables in the appendix provide such hard-to-find facts as the age limit for purchase and consumption of alcohol, public revenue from such beverages, and the cost of abuse. This will prove to be an excellent reference source for just about any college or public library.

**Encyclopedia of Computer Science and Engineering**, 2nd ed., edited by Anthony Ralston & Edwin D. Reilly, Jr., 1,664p. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1983 (0-442-24496-7), \$87.50.

An outstanding successor to the acclaimed 1976 edition, with over 40 percent of the material new or revised, this massive reference work is an excellent starting place for computer questions. It provides signed articles, most with bibliographies and illustrations, on topics such as hardware, software, languages, theories, applications, and people. In the alphabetical arrangement, subject access is facilitated by an excellent cross-reference structure, a listing of all entries according to category, and a detailed index. Six useful appendices, including a multilingual glossary, are included. Offering clear, concise information for the nonspecialist, this work should be a welcome addition to any collection.

**The Essential Guide to Nonprescription Drugs**, by David R. Zimmerman. 886p. Harper, 1983 (0-06-014915-9), \$27.50; (0-06-091023-2), pa. \$10.95.

While other guides may cover the ingredients of over-the-counter drugs and their possible side effects, the author of this work has compiled a review of active ingredients used in categories of preparations and has added therapeutic claims

made by their manufacturers. He provides a breakdown of the approved, conditionally approved, and disapproved substances in each category. Ratings and approval notations were culled from a 10-year FDA review of every medically active ingredient being used in the U.S. In each of the 70 categories, a chart provides comparisons between products. An excellent work to enhance the numerous "brand evaluations" now on the market.

**National Nursing Directory**, edited by Kenneth E. Lawrence & Howard S. Rowland. 424p. Aspen Systems Corporation, 1982 (0-89443-805-0), \$34.50.

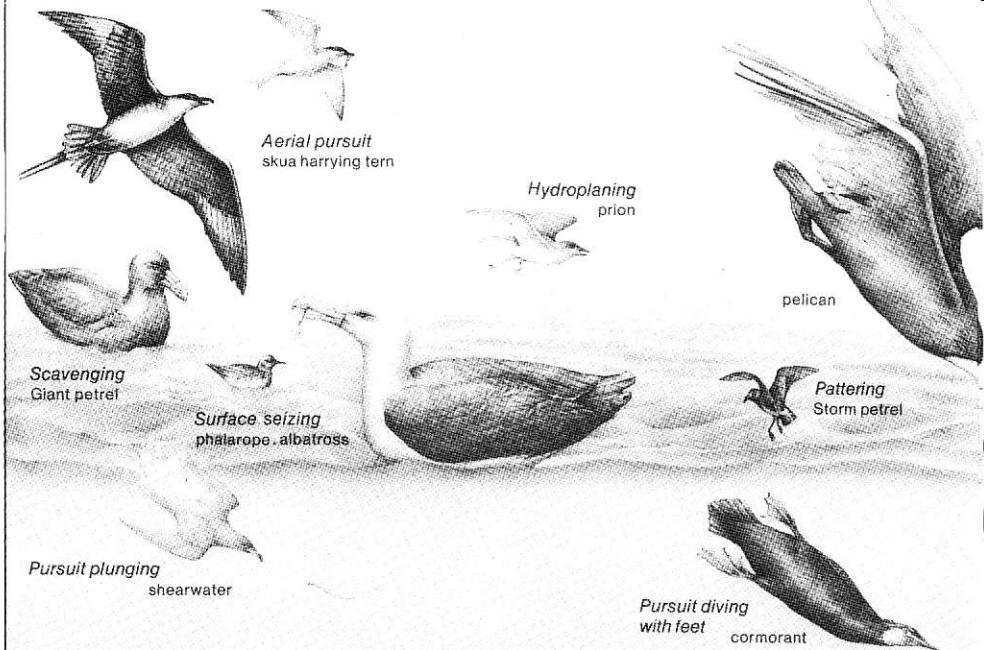
This work, a directory in every sense of the word, leads the reader to organizations for and about nursing. In 10 sections the user can find addresses for credentialing agencies (including the state nursing boards), outreach organizations, recruitment groups working with nursing personnel power planning on a national and regional level, all the nursing schools in the U.S. (whether placed in hospitals or colleges), state health offices, and professional organizations. Especially appropriate for nursing schools and education and job information centers.

**North American Horticulture: a Reference Guide**, compiled by the American Horticultural Society; edited by Barbara W. Ellis. 367p. Scribner's, 1982 (0-684-17604-1), \$50.

Academic, commercial, and amateur horticulturists will find in this tremendously expanded version of the *Directory of American Horticulture* (1977) a treasure trove of difficult-to-find information. Organizations, educational institutions, government programs, nomenclature authorities, gardens, other horticultural information, and reference materials are detailed in directory format. Within most chapters, arrangement is alphabetical by state; the index provides access by subject, organization, and botanical names.

**Prentice-Hall Encyclopedia of Mathematics**, by Beverly Henderson West & others. 683p. Prentice-Hall, 1982 (0-13-696013-8), \$35.

To most students, mathematics has some of the qualities of a foreign language. In 90 clearly written articles, this encyclopedia takes the mystery out of such concepts as induction, measures, scientific notation, circle, and statistics. Most articles are a page or two in length and end with a few references for further reading. Examples in the text correspond to situations in everyday life (the compu-



### Seabird feeding methods

The complete world of the sea, including ocean bird life is covered in the Times Atlas of the London. Published in the U.S. and Canada by Van Nostrand Reinhold. Reproduced by permission

tation of baseball batting averages illustrates a point on "statistics"). Indexes refer the reader to biographical, bibliographical, and topical information within the articles. A work suitable for high school and college-level readers.

**The Reader's Guide to Microcomputer Books**, by Michael Nicita & Ronald Petrusha. 409p. Golden-Lee, 1983 (0-912331-00-3), pa. \$9.95.

Microcomputer fans will have a difficult time wresting this evaluative tool from harried collection development librarians, who will be clutching it until the promised second edition arrives. With an alphabetic arrangement by title under six main headings, this guide provides bibliographic information, a rating between 10 and 100 for content and presentation, and a critical review for over 400 currently available microcomputer books. Completing the utility of this work are author, title, subject, and rating indexes.

**The Times Atlas of the Oceans**, edited by Alastair Couper. 272p. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1983 (0-442-21661-0), \$90.50.

In a stunning compilation of maps and photos accompanied by lucid text, this unique and comprehensive resource offers something for all readers, from students and sportsmen to naval strategists, businessmen, and marine specialists. The scope of the work is massive. Through the 17 thematic chapters, 11 appendixes, glossary, up-to-date bibliography, and excellent index, nearly all aspects of ocean research, resources, environment, uses, and policies are masterfully explored.

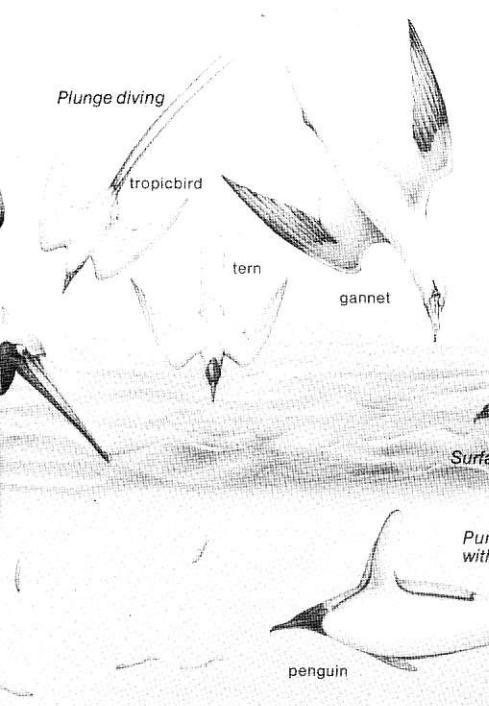
### Social science, law, and business

**Atlas of Demographics: U.S. by County, from the 1980 Census**. 60p. Infomap, 1982 (0-910471-00-2), pa. \$195.

This beautiful atlas, the first to present socioeconomic information at the county level, is based on the 1980 census. Population and housing information is presented on 16 colored maps, which also identify concentrations of socioeconomic characteristics. Most of the data is expressed in medians and percentages, and appears plotted on maps or in tabular form. This is an interesting and easily understood approach that will help to answer many reference inquiries.

**A Dictionary of Social Science Methods**, compiled by P. McC. Miller & M. J. Wilson. 124p. Wiley, 1983 (0-471-90035-4), \$39.95; (0-471-90036-2), pa. \$17.50.

In order to go beyond mere definitions, this dictionary attempts to illustrate and describe social science methods currently in practice. The compilers have refrained from including entries on theory and philosophy, emphasizing explications of issues and statistical techniques widely applied in or peculiar to the social sciences. One helpful feature of this resource is its elaborate system of internal cross-references, which allows for easy access to discussions of related terms or techniques. Black-and-white illustrations complement and clarify the text. This work will be of primary interest to academic libraries.



Oceans. Copyright ©1983 by Times Books Ltd., of the publisher.

**Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice**, 4 vols., edited by Sanford H. Kadish & others. 1,790p. Free Pr.: Macmillan, 1983 (0-02-918110-0), \$300 per set.

Constituting the first comprehensive work for this interdisciplinary field, the encyclopedia provides in-depth articles by known specialists. Besides including extensive bibliographies on every subject, each article ranges from 1,000 to 10,000 words and contains legal citations to decisions and statutes, and cross-references. The authors have taken great care to integrate all viewpoints of controversial issues in a clear, evenhanded style. Although the work is arranged alphabetically, the editors have grouped related ideas under one entry. This format allows for excellent coverage of the field. Other special features include a glossary, a table of cited legal cases, a subject-topical catalog of cases, and a superb general subject index. Will become the standard source for criminal justice studies.

**Encyclopedia of Investments**, edited by Marshall E. Blume & Jack P. Friedman. 1,093p. Warren, Gorham & Lamont, 1982 (now o.p.: 0-88262-713-9), \$47.50. To be published as a paperback by Free Press in 1984.

Substantial articles approximately 20 pages each, written by experts, cover over 50 different types of investments. Included are arbitrage, books, art nouveau and art deco, American folk art, motion pictures, theatrical productions, rugs and porcelain, as well as the more typical U. S. Treasury bills, mutual funds, commercial paper, metals, futures, and money

market funds. Chapters typically detail the basic characteristics of the investment, attractive features, potential risks, tax consequences, representative types of investors, and important factors in buying and selling. Each concludes with a glossary unique to the particular investment, a list of leading galleries, dealers and auction houses, plus recommended reading for additional information. This work will serve as an excellent introduction to a wide variety of investment opportunities. After selecting this book as an Outstanding Reference Source, the committee learned that it is, unfortunately, no longer in print in hardback. It will be available in paper (see citation).

**The Guide to American Law: Everyone's Legal Encyclopedia**, three volumes of 12 forthcoming. Vol. I: A to Award. 481 p. Vol. II: B to Closed shop. 468p. Vol. III: Closely held to Cruelty. 482p. West, 1983 (0-314-73224-1), \$660 per set (pre-publication \$540); also available at \$45 per volume.

*The Guide to American Law* is the first encyclopedia written for people who need concise, comprehensible information about major theories, topics, and concepts of law. This 12-volume reference work, when completed by the end of 1984, will cover 5,000 varied topics, including contemporary legal issues, cases and statutes, landmark documents, fundamental rights and freedoms, and famous trials. Each volume is individually indexed and has cross-references and photographs. The last volume will fully index the entire set. This encyclopedia meets a heretofore unfulfilled need for answers to legal reference questions.

**Information U.S.A.**, by Matthew Lesko. 990p. Cloth edition, Viking, 1983 (0-670-39823-3), \$52; paper edition, Penguin, 1983 (0-14-046564-2), \$19.95.

Do you need to file a Freedom of Information Act request for papers, adopt a wild horse, or acquire a permit to build a still? Need a cloud-seeding expert or an astronaut to speak at a civic function? These and thousands more traditional questions can be answered by this massive reference work. Arranged by department, agency, or branch of government, the directory provides information on sources and specialists in the federal bureaucracy. Many quasi-official agencies are also included. An organizational chart, addresses, and a catalog of major resources are provided for each group. A special sampler section acts as a source within a source, and lists regional federal centers, free

items, and hotlines. *Information U.S.A.* is a fine companion to *The United States Government Manual*.

**Marketing Information: A Professional Reference Guide**, edited by Jac L. Goldstucker; compiled by Dennis W. Goodwin. 369p. College of Business Administration, Georgia State Univ., 1982 (0-88406-132-9), \$60.

A wealth of information can be obtained from this concise and consolidated sourcebook on marketing. Arranged by subject, the first half is in directory format and includes associations, government agencies, consulting groups, continuing education programs, special libraries, and research centers particular to marketing. The remainder of the book consists of a source guide for the various subject divisions of marketing such as advertising, direct mail, franchising, retailing, and sales. Each section gives descriptive information on bibliographies, handbooks and manuals, directories, dictionaries, periodicals, newsletters, and databases. A valuable starting place for any marketing researcher, especially since the resource is due to be updated every two years.

**Small Business Sourcebook: A Guide to the Information Services and Sources Provided to 100 Small Businesses . . .**, edited by John Ganly, Diane Sciattara, & Andrea Pedolsky. 796p. Gale, 1983 (0-8103-1108-9), \$95.

The title is justified! *Small Business Sourcebook* is designed for persons interested in going into business for themselves. From antiques to video, this directory categorizes and lists sources of information for a hundred different types of small business enterprises. Included are special sections on federal, state, and local assistance, trade associations, consultants, venture capital firms, published sources of information, government agencies, and universities. An excellent starting place for the novice entrepreneur.

## Biography

**Biographical Dictionary of Dance**, by Barbara Naomi Cohen-Stratyner. 970p. Schirmer: Macmillan, 1982 (0-02-870260-3), \$75.

Dance enthusiasts will welcome this substantial work. It covers 400 years of European and American dance through biographical sketches of approximately 3,000 notable figures. Major dancers, composers, designers, and impresarios are

profiled in readable articles, frequently supplemented by bibliographies. Entries for choreographers are extensive, with lists of major works accompanied by premiere dates. This is the perfect choice for a basic biographical source on the dance.

**Dictionary of American Negro Biography**, edited by Rayford W. Logan & Michael R. Winston. 680p. Norton, 1982 (0-393-01513-0), \$50.

Taking as its subject Afro-Americans who met the test of "historical significance," this dictionary covers more than 600 individuals who died before 1970. It not only fills an important gap in black biography, but is also eminently readable. The signed entries contain an incredible amount of detail and are based on sound scholarship. Often manuscript sources were consulted and these, along with secondary sources, are listed with the entry. The biographies range from photographers to cowboys, from explorers to educators. The second printing includes a classified index. A must for even the smallest collection.

**International Dictionary of Women's Biography**, compiled and edited by Jennifer S. Uglow; Frances Hinton, asst. ed. 534p. Continuum, 1982 (0-8264-0192-9), \$27.50.

What do Zelda Fitzgerald and Anne Frank have in common? They are often difficult to find in standard biographical dictionaries. Uglow, however, includes them and more than 1,500 other women, living and dead, in this useful compendium. While the scope of the dictionary is international, the emphasis is on Western women of the last two centuries. Brief, but well written, entries give basic facts and the woman's historical significance. Short bibliographies are often included and a subject index is provided. This book was originally published in England as the *Macmillan Dictionary of Women's Biography*. A good choice, even for libraries with large biography collections.

**Index to Black American Writers in Collective Biographies**, by Dorothy W. Campbell. 162p. Libraries Unlimited, 1983 (0-87287-349-8), \$27.50.

The lives of approximately 1,900 living and deceased black American writers, including creative authors, journalists, and scholars, are now markedly more accessible. Alphabetically arranged, cross-referenced entries list the writers' dates, fields of activity, and references to substantive information found in 267 titles published from 1837 to 1982. Researchers will dis-

cover leads to specialized materials such as *Men of Mark* (1887), while students at all levels will find this a valuable aid in tracking black writers through such library standards as *Contemporary Authors* and the *Negro Almanac*.

**Who Was Who in the Greek World, 776 B.C.-30 B.C.**, edited by Diana Bowder. 227p. Cornell Univ. Pr., 1982 (0-8014-1538-1), \$29.95.

A companion to *Who Was Who in the Roman World* (Cornell, 1980, \$29.95), an outstanding reference source of 1981. Bowder provides brief but scholarly descriptions of over 750 Greeks and important non-Greeks who figured in Hellenic history during this important period. An index identifies the names of those mentioned in the text, but without entries of their own. Many cross-references are provided. An outline of Greek history, glossary, maps, and six family trees are included. Short bibliographies are appended to the entries.

## Language, literature, and music

**Black Music in the United States: an Annotated Bibliography of Selected Reference and Research Materials**, by Samuel A. Floyd, Jr., & Marsha J. Reisser. 234p. Kraus, 1983 (0-527-30164-7), \$30.

A worthy companion to Eileen Southern's *Biographical Dictionary of Afro-American and African Musicians* (Greenwood, 1982, \$49.95), one of last year's Outstanding Reference Sources. Floyd and Reisser direct the student of American black music to over 300 extensively annotated sources, including reference works, monographs, biographies, records, and printed music anthologies. Also listed and annotated are 50 special collections of black music. Additional aids for the researcher include author, title, and subject indexes to the text. Any library serving students interested in music will find this a valuable reference tool.

**Critical Survey of Poetry: English Language Series**, 8 vols., edited by Frank N. Magill. Salem, 1982 (0-89356-340-4), \$350.

Students of poetry and librarians aiding their search for information will rejoice at this impressive survey of the genre. Alphabetically arranged articles, averaging 10 pages, on 340 English-language poets

from Cynewulf to the present comprise the first seven volumes. Each entry presents the poet's dates and place of birth and death and a listing of major collections; discusses works in other literary forms; provides a short biography and critical analysis, and a brief bibliography of criticism signed by the contributing scholar. The final volume offers 20 extended essays on poetry by historical period and on subjects such as forms of criticism. A detailed poet, title, and subject index enhances and completes this attractive set.

**The Oxford Companion to American Literature**, 5th ed., compiled by James D. Hart. 896p. Oxford Univ. Pr., 1983 (0-19-503074-5), \$49.95.

The first revision of this classic in 18 years adds more than 240 author biographies and 115 summaries of novels, stories, poems, plays, biographies, and histories to what was already the essential ready reference survey of American literature. Entries on nearly 600 authors and subjects covered in previous editions have been substantially revised while the text has been reset into a more readable format. From *Abbotsford and Newstead Abbey* to Salinger's *Zooey Glass*, the trail of American literature has become a little easier to follow.

**Oxford Latin Dictionary**, edited by P.G.W. Glare, 2,126p. Oxford Univ. Pr., 1982 (0-19-864224-5), \$145.

After 50 years of preparation, this impressive dictionary has been completed and is now available in a one-volume edition. Librarians and scholars have been watching its progress since the first fascicle was issued in 1968. Following the general format of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the work examines classical Latin from its beginnings through the second century A.D. It is an indispensable purchase for any library having users with even a passing interest in Latin or the history of language. It should be the first choice in a Latin-English dictionary.

**Twentieth-Century Western Writers**, edited by James Vinson & D. L. Kirkpatrick. 941p. Gale, 1982 (0-8103-0227-6), \$95.

This guide to the lives and works of more than 300 living and deceased writers will intrigue devotees of western (as in *frontier*) literature. Each of the alphabetically arranged entries presents a brief biography, bibliographies of western and nonwestern works, a short list of critical studies, and a signed critical essay. Many living authors have contributed comments on their work. A title index and pseud-

onym cross-references enhance this useful volume.

## History

**Dictionary of the Middle Ages**, 3 vols. of 12 (plus index), edited by Joseph R. Strayer. Vol. 1: Aachen—Augustinism, 661p. (0-684-16760-3); Vol. 2: Augustinus Triumphus—Byzantine Literature, 525p. (0-684-17022-1); Vol. 3: Cobala—Crimea, 680p. (0-684-17023-X). Scribner's, 1982-83, \$70 per vol. (pre-publication \$780).

All aspects of medieval studies—history, philosophy, religion, literature, art, and science—are covered in this encyclopedic dictionary. The entries range from short definitions (e.g. archivolt) to lengthy treatments (e.g. Arabic numerals). Designed to meet the needs of readers from high school students to specialists, this work provides a mass of information on an important thousand-year span of history, 500 A.D. to 1500 A.D. The bibliographies included stress English-language sources. If the first three volumes of this work are



Oscar & Associates

*Completing their selections of the 1983 outstanding reference sources at ALA Midwinter in Washington, D.C., are, from l. to rt., (top row): Frances Cable, Suzanne E. Holler, James R. Kuhlman, Ellen D. Safley, and Debby L. Simone; (bottom row) LaVerne Z. Coan, K.M. Rosswurm (chair), Carol M. Tobin, Betty A. Gard, and Ellen Lodwick.*

any indication, it is sure to become a standard source in the field.

**Guide to American Foreign Relations Since 1700**, edited by Richard Dean Burns. 1,311p. ABC-Clio, 1982 (0-87436-323-3), \$135.

This handsomely arranged, annotated, selective bibliography covers the international experiences of America from the Colonial era through the issues and personalities of 1981. Each of the 40 chapters is preceded by an introductory essay prepared by an eminent authority. The chap-

# Magill Books

An ALA "Best Reference Source of 1983"

"The format is excellent, with contents and continuous paging clearly shown on spines. An excellent Index including authors, titles, and subject entries for topical essays appears at the end of volume 8."

"The wide experience of the editor, the generous representation of modern poets, and the extensive analysis recommend Critical Survey of Poetry to academic and large public libraries."

—Reference Books Bulletin

"The essays read smoothly and will be understandable to the intended audience of high school students and undergraduates ... The time is ripe for this remedial survey." —Wilson Library Bulletin

Contact your Salem rep by using our toll free number for complete information on this set.

Call Toll Free **800-221-1592** (In NJ call collect) **201-871-3700**

**SALEM PRESS, INC.**

P.O. Box 1097 • Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

## CRITICAL SURVEY OF POETRY

**English Language Series**

Edited by Frank N. Magill

This eight-volume set is a standard reference source for all poetry reference needs. It contains 340 essays on individual poets, 21 essays on the historical and critical background essential for reading poetry, and exhaustive indexing of poets by their given and pen names, titles of collections, titles of poems discussed, critical terminology, and literary movements.

1982/8 volumes; 3,800 pages/ISBN 0-89356-340-8/\$350.00

Catalog Cards and Librarian's Guide supplied FREE



*Fath Ali Shah Qajar (left), who reigned from 1797 to 1834, was the last Iranian monarch confident in his world beyond the reach of Europe.*

*He is pictured in the Atlas of the Islamic World Since 1500 by Francis Robinson, copyright © 1983 Facts On File, Inc. Reproduced by permission of the publisher.*

ters are arranged chronologically, and, for later periods, by major regions as well. Attractive features: plentiful references, maps, chronological charts, and subject, author, and individual indexes, plus the promise of a revision or supplement in five years. An important purchase for any institution.

**Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives**, United States, rev. ed., compiled by National Archives and Records Service. 304p. National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1983 (0-911333-00-2), \$25; (0-911333-01-0), pa. \$19.

A person beginning a family history may know that government records such as the census can be valuable, but may not know how to get hold of them, what information is needed to use them, and what can be found in the records. This extensively revised and enlarged version of the 1964 *Guide* will answer all these questions and more. An excellent introduction explains how to get started in genealogical research and how to use the *Guide* and the resources of the National Archives. Census, naturalization, pension, military service, and land claim records are described in detail and microfilm reel numbers are given. A basic source for any genealogical collection.

**Louis L. Snyder's Historical Guide to World War II**, by Louis L. Snyder. 838p. Greenwood, 1982 (0-313-23216-4), \$39.95.

What distinguishes this work from other dictionaries of World War II is Snyder's emphasis on cultural and social history. The short entries not only identify, but also provide insight into the causes or consequences of an event or the significance of a person. For example, while other works may describe the bombing of Coventry, Snyder mentions the theory that Churchill chose not to save Coventry in order to protect Ultra, a code-breaking machine. The *Guide* is arranged A-Z, has liberal cross-references, includes bibliographies, and has an index. An excellent addition for even the largest World War II collections. □