FROM COMMITTEES OF RUSA

Best Bibliographies in History

RUSA History Section Bibliography and Indexes Committee

Each year the History Section’s Bibliography and Indexes Committee honors outstanding English-language book-length bibliographies in the field of history that have been published in the two previous years. This year’s list includes bibliographies selected by the 2002 and 2003 committees. We hope that you enjoy learning about these marvelous compilations.

All members of the library profession are invited to submit titles to the committee for consideration. For 2004, the committee will review works published in 2002 and 2003. Nominated titles can be from any period of history. The focus is on first editions, but a subsequent edition will be considered if there is substantial revision. Titles should be sent to the 2004 project editor: Laura Dale Bischof, Librarian for Western European History and German and Dutch Linguistics and Literature, 170B Wilson Library University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455; e-mail: bisch004@tc.umn.edu. The next submission deadline is October 31, 2003.


This annotated bibliography contains references to early periodical indexes and a myriad of other books and articles that provide access to the contents of periodicals before 1900. Most of the entries are for subject bibliographies contained in monographs, periodical articles, dissertations, government publications, professional association publications, and other fugitive materials. The organizational scheme follows that of Baylay’s Guide to Reference Books. Some of the sources included were, no doubt, profiled in earlier editions of this and other similar works. A few are still in the current edition, but the annotations in Early Periodical Indexes are new and more detailed, from the author’s recent examination. This bibliography will not be used every day, but librarians will call upon it to assist researchers with deep or out-of-the-ordinary quests.—Agnes Haigh Widder, Michigan State University Libraries, East Lansing


With the collapse of Communist governments across Eastern Europe since 1989 came a revival of interest in and publishing about the Holocaust in the region. Braham, the Director of the Rosenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies at the City University of New York, details the literature published between 1984 and 2000 concerning the Holocaust and the history of Jews in Hungary and also includes pre-1984 material omitted from two editions of his
Paolo E. Coletta has gathered into one tome 9,900 works recounting the long and storied history of the United States Navy. The first chapter includes general bibliographic aids and reference sources; subsequent chapters are organized chronologically, beginning in colonial times and ending with Bill Clinton’s first term of office. Each chapter is divided (as applicable) into sections of books, documents, manuscripts, dissertations, periodical articles, oral histories, audiovisual resources, and fiction and/or literature. Coletta limits his scope to the United States Navy, but includes classic works on the other branches of service, in addition to selected works about allies and enemies. Although annotations are sparse and limited to a single descriptive sentence, the book is well indexed both by author and subject.—Joel D. Kitchens, Texas A&M University, College Station


Welch, Jeanie M. The Tokyo Trial: A Bibliographic Guide to English-Language Sources. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2002. 225p. $79.95 (ISBN: 0-313-31598-1). These two unique lists of research sources relate to the activities of the Japanese army in World War II. Corfield’s bibliography covers the Malay campaign and the subsequent military occupation of this area by the Japanese. The 4,262 annotated entries contain representative published sources along with many unpublished manuscripts, diaries, and other personal accounts, noting their institutional location throughout Southeast Asia, Australia, and other parts of the United Kingdom. Examples of topics in the subject index are women’s accounts, military affairs, Japanese accounts, civilian internees, intelligence matters, and United States references. The volume includes separate indexes for the United Kingdom and Japanese military units involved and indexes to the authors and other persons mentioned in the annotations.

The Tokyo Trial bibliography, including references to war crime trials held in other parts of the Asia-Pacific region between 1945 to 1956, annotates numerous English-language sources, such as official transcripts, treaties and laws, scholarly books and articles, memoirs and papers of the participants, dissertations and theses, and news magazine accounts. Introductory text to each chapter and subchapter provides additional useful information. There is also an index to major subjects, defendants, judges, legal counsel, and other individuals who took part in these trials or who have published information about them. These two bibliographies are highly recommended for libraries supporting research by scholars and other individuals interested in World War II military history.—M. Ann Reimert, Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, Kansas


written by or about these two presidents, including published and unpublished materials and also primary and secondary sources. Early chapters are arranged by type of source ranging from manuscripts to writings and speeches to biographical publications and more. Later chapters list materials by theme, such as childhood, stage of political careers, and writings by or about other historical figures of that era who interacted with either president. The books include comprehensive author and subject indexes that easily point readers to the materials they seek. These resources fulfill a lot of historical research needs, especially regarding key moments of nineteenth-century American history. Both titles are highly recommended for any research or academic library.—Paul Wartenberg, University of Florida, Gainesville


Daehn’s fascinating bibliography of archaic classical Hellenistic Greek numismatics, plus Celtic, Parthian Indo-Greek, and early Judean coinage, updates Elvira Clain-Stefanelli’s 1985 Numismatic Bibliography. Organized first into lists of general reference and special aspects of this coinage, the sources are then arranged into thirty-five lists of ancient and modern geographic areas. The very detailed annotations of specialty books, scholarly papers from academic journals, popular books, and articles from hobby periodicals reveal how early historic ancient coinage reflects the art and general society of this era. Indexes to authors and collections, a cross-index to cities, districts, kingdoms, and tribes, and a concordance to the Clain-Stefanelli bibliography provide numerous ways to access the 4094 citations. Scholars and hobbyists will find this bibliography invaluable when researching this very specialized subject.—M. Ann Reinert, Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, Kansas


A massive compilation of roughly twelve thousand secondary sources, DeVries’ work makes use of conventional medieval geographical boundaries (Europe, Byzantium, and the Middle East), but extends the chronology to encompass references to Late Antiquity (in particular the third- and fourth-century Roman Empire) and the period up to 1648 (especially important for the study of the Ottoman Turks). Citations are arranged in useful categories: geographical, by war, and thematic, including such notable sections as those on peace movements, Vikings, women, and popular rebellion. This monumental undertaking lacks annotations, but the categories as well as the titles of the sources generally make up for this. The author is a professor of history at Loyola University in Maryland. Includes an author index. Important for all research collections and smaller libraries with a clientele interested in military history.—Shelley Arlen, University of Florida Libraries, Gainesville


The introduction examines Hitler’s relationship with his books and the history of related collections. Most of the volume is an annotated list of 1,162 items in the Library of Congress that may, on the basis of a dedication or Hitler’s ex libris, have been his books. Smaller sections list the books in the library of Congress of other Nazi leaders and books of Hitler in other libraries. There are 1,669 numbered entries, an inventory of the destroyed Reich Chancellery collection, and a subject/indexing. The transcribed dedications and indexing provide a fascinating window on the social history of the Third Reich, and many of the works in the Library of Congress remain unprocessed.—James P. Niessen, Rutgers University, New Brunswick


These companion volumes list nearly three thousand books relating to the early American history of North America and the Caribbean from 1492 to 1815, selected from reviews in sixty-four general and historical journals. Succinct annotations highlight the focus of these monographs, reference works, exhibition catalogs, and essay collections, along with citations to each review. Irwin has arranged each volume into thirty-two thematic topics, enhancing their usefulness. Topic examples are ethnicity, urban life, visual arts and material culture, and rural life and agriculture. An author and subject index has been compiled for both volumes, and the 1991–1995 volume contains a very help-
ful title index. These bibliographies are highly recommended to researchers and teachers of history utilizing secondary school, public, and college libraries.—M. Ann Reimert, Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, Kansas


Nisbet compiled most of the work between 1940 and 1969, and Kanter prepared it for publication after her death in 1994. Books and pamphlets, but not articles, published in English by subjects of the British Empire from 1832 to 1899 have entries if they refer completely or in part to the territory that would constitute the contiguous United States. Citations include at least one library in the United States or the United Kingdom holding the item, and if the work provoked published reactions, citations for these as well. The 3,211 entries are arranged by year, followed by indexes by all authors and all mentioned titles of the authors, though not of subjects. High standards of accuracy and completeness are observed, and the impact of major authors such as Dickens and R. L. Stevenson is documented with references to related reviews and articles.—James P. Niessen, Rutgers University, New Brunswick


This bibliography contains more than 2,750 annotated entries for published English-language literature concerning the history, linguistics, and anthropology of the Shawnee Indians from their first contact with Europeans to the present. The author's background as a lawyer and legal writer brings special value to this bibliography. In the last eight chapters he brings together citations to official documents, such as court cases, Commissioner of Indian Affairs reports, treaties, statutes, and executive orders. These entries are arranged chronologically and are so richly annotated that they could serve as an overview to the history of Shawnee/government relations. Includes name and subject indexes. This comprehensive work is an excellent guide to the primary and secondary sources detailing the history of this tribe and belongs in any library serving researchers of Native American and Midwestern history.—Laura Dale Bischof, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities


This bibliography of more than twenty-three thousand items covers material published since 1945 on the British colonies and Commonwealth, focusing on imperial aspects. Previous bibliographies include The Historiography of the British Empire-Commonwealth: Trends, Interpretations, and Resources, edited by Robin Winks (1966) and The Royal Historical Society Bibliography on CD-ROM (1998) covering materials published between 1901 and 1992. The carefully structured arrangement is thematic, subarranged geographically. Indexes to the authors, to places and people, and to personal names are at the end. This scholarly work provides rich access and will reward the researcher, but the lack of keyword or subject index could frustrate those who prefer that mode of searching.—Jennalyn Tellman, University of Arizona Library, Tucson


The RMS Titanic has been a topic of near universal interest since the tragedy in the North Atlantic in 1912. This historiographical-bibliographic survey brings together a comprehensive and descriptive listing of primary, secondary, and artistic sources from popular to scholarly, mythic and anecdotal, to technical and legal. Part I lists general reference sources, archival and special collections, and useful sites on the Internet as well as chronologies, sources of biographical information and personal accounts, news coverage, and the RMS Titanic in fiction and the arts. Part II provides descriptive lists of sources, categorized by art genre or format. Part III is the annotated bibliography. The three parts are effectively woven together through complete cross-referencing and separate author and subject indexes.—Charles G. Spetland, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities


This unique bibliography, compiled under difficult conditions (poor transportation, unannounced blackouts in Cuba), describes some 1,600 primary and secondary materials related to the experiences of Cuban women on the island and in exile, from 1868 to the present, with a major focus on the twentieth century. Items are listed chronologically and are
The subject index is quite detailed. For rare items, the location in Cuba and elsewhere is indicated. The preface serves as a guide to the major repositories for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies and describes their holdings. Invaluable in calling attention to little-known sources and collections, the work covers a wide range of women’s activities, from political activism in both the pre- and post-revolutionary periods to health care to literature and popular culture. Appropriate for academic libraries and public libraries supporting Latin American or Women’s Studies or serving a Cuban-American/Latin-American clientele.—Shelley Arlen, University of Florida Libraries, Gainesville


The African American Experience aims to serve as a guide to key books and articles, rather than to provide a comprehensive listing of the literature. The topics covered are migration and urbanization, work, family, women, education, literature, music, intellectual and political thought, politics, the press, the military, athletics, business, sexuality and race, consumerism, the Civil Rights Movement, and religion. Each historiographical essay averages fifteen to thirty pages and is followed by a complete bibliography of texts referenced. An author, title, subject index is provided, along with background information about the editors and authors, all of whom have published in the field. The essays will be useful for anyone interested in reading a succinct introduction to important topics in African American history.

Among the many notable contributors to The Harvard Guide to African-American History are Eric Foner, Darline Clark Hine, and Gary B. Nash. This extensive bibliography is arranged in three major parts. The first part offers bibliographic essays on historical research aids such as reference works, Internet sources, manuscript collections, primary source materials, government documents, oral history, art, music, photography, film, and television. The second part categorizes works by topic within broad chronological groupings. Examples of topical breakdowns include race relations, family, religion, education, and health. The third part consists of three bibliographies: women; geographical areas (regions, states, local); and autobiographical and biographical works. The volume concludes with a descriptive list of contributors followed by an author index. The companion CD-ROM offers PDF files of some of the content, but does not offer any additional searching functionality.

Libraries serving patrons with an interest in African American history will want to own both of these bibliographies.—Jeanette E. Pierce, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore


This resource offers comprehensive coverage of its topic. It covers almost every subject related to African American women, ranging from education to relationships to health to social and historical and economic conditions. The bibliography covers books and journal/magazine materials published from the 1970s to the present. Thomas uses a general subject category listing of titles, with each title entry placed in order by author’s name. Each entry provides a full citation and a paragraph-length description. The resource provides both an author index and subject index for ease of locating entries. While this resource is not exclusively focused on history, it does include significant historical coverage. It successfully introduces a specialized subject through its ease-of-use format and large scope of research. Overall, it is a very excellent bibliography. Highly recommended for all research and academic libraries.—Paul Wartenberg, University of Florida Libraries, Gainesville