

# **2014 RUSA Book & Media Awards**

**Hosted by the  
Reference and User Services Association  
(RUSA)  
ALA Midwinter Meeting  
Philadelphia, Penn.**

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**Announcing 2014 selections for:**

**The Listen List**

**Zora Neale Hurston Award**

**Louis Shores Award**

**Outstanding Reference Sources**

**Sophie Brody Medal**

**Dartmouth Medal**

**Reading List**

**Notable Books List**

**And featuring awards previously published in  
*Reference and User Services Quarterly (RUSQ)***

**Best Free Websites**

**Outstanding Business Reference Sources**

**Best Business Websites**

**Best Historic Materials**

# RUSA's 2014 Listen List announces outstanding audiobook narration award winners

PHILADELPHIA — The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA) serving expert readers' advisory and collection development librarians, has announced its selections for the 2014 Listen List: Outstanding Audiobook Narration juried list.

The Listen List highlights extraordinary narrators and audio experiences that merit special attention by general adult listeners and the librarians who work with them. Titles are selected because they are a pleasure to listen to and make one reluctant to stop listening. Titles are also named to the list because the narration of the book creates a new experience, offering listeners something they could not create by their own visual reading; and because the narrator achieves an outstanding performance in terms of voice, accents, pitch, tone, inflection, rhythm and pace. This juried list, designed for avid listeners and those new to the joys of being read a story, includes fiction and nonfiction and features voices that enthrall, delight and inspire.

The 2014 winners are:

**“The Boys in the Boat,” by Daniel James Brown. Narrated by Edward Herrmann. Recorded Books/Penguin Audio.** (ISBN 9781470352509). Herrmann’s lively and emotionally connected reading captures the excitement and detail of this real-life Cinderella story of the U.S. rowing team’s journey to the 1936 Berlin Olympics. His masterful command of language and cadence, combined with his deft characterizations, makes this inspiring story a must-listen.

Listen-Alikes:

- “Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage” by Alfred Lansing. Narrated by Simon Prebble. Blackstone Audio.
- “Seabiscuit: An American Legend” by Laura Hillenbrand. Narrated by George Newbern. Books on Tape.
- “Wilt, 1962” by Gary M. Pomerantz. Narrated by Stephen Hoye. Books on Tape.

**“The Grand Sophy,” by Georgette Heyer. Narrated by Sarah Woodward. NAXOS AudioBooks.** (ISBN 9781843797555). Recently arrived on the London social scene, the indomitable Sophy Stanton-Lacey wreaks her own brand of delightful havoc in this charming Regency romp. With a lively pace and deliciously upper crust accent, Woodward’s mirthful tone emphasizes the story’s comically formal dialogue and Austenesque romantic chemistry.

Listen-Alikes:

- “Emma” by Jane Austen. Narrated by Juliet Stevenson. NAXOS AudioBooks.
- “The Mischief of the Mistletoe” by Lauren Willig. Narrated by Kate Reading. Recorded Books/Penguin Audio.
- “What Happens in London” by Julia Quinn. Narrated by Rosalyn Landor. Books on Tape.

**“Heartburn,” by Nora Ephron. Narrated by Meryl Streep. Books on Tape/Random House Audio.** (ISBN 9780385367301). Streep narrates celebrity chef Rachel Samstat’s account of her husband’s betrayal with all the unflagging energy of a pregnant woman scorned, aggrieved and bereft. Her superb performance, flavored by her wryly snarky and campy yet intimate narration, gives voice to Ephron’s unique brand of smart humor and social commentary.

Listen-Alikes:

- “Back When We Were Grownups” by Anne Tyler. Narrated by Blair Brown. Books on Tape.
- “The Family Man” by Elinor Lipman. Narrated by Jonathan Davis. Blackstone Audio.
- “Good in Bed” by Jennifer Weiner. Narrated by Laura Hicks. BBC Audiobooks America.

**“Longbourn,” by Jo Baker. Narrated by Emma Fielding. Books on Tape/Random House Audio.** (ISBN 9780804149426). Fielding narrates Baker’s extraordinary revisionist take on “Pride and Prejudice” with a quiet, shimmering assurance, as she exposes the upstairs-downstairs dynamics of the Bennet family. Her elegant delivery and mastery of pitch, rhythm and emphasis turn each sentence into a seduction.

Listen-Alikes:

- “French Lieutenant’s Woman” by John Fowles. Narrated by Paul Shelley. Chivers Audio Books.
- “Middlemarch” by George Eliot. Narrated by Juliet Stevenson. NAXOS AudioBooks.
- “Tigers in Red Weather” by Liza Klausmann. Narrated by Katherine Kellgren. Recorded Books/Hachette Audio.

**“The Ocean at the End of the Lane,” by Neil Gaiman. Narrated by Neil Gaiman. Harper Audio.** (ISBN 9780062263032). Gaiman, as both author and narrator, immerses listeners in a modern fairy tale in which two stalwart children pit themselves against dark and relentless terrors. Through an exquisite management of pace and inflection, his voice becomes the story’s doorway just as surely as any rabbit hole or wardrobe.

Listen-Alikes:

- “The Book of Lost Things” by John Connolly. Narrated by Steven Crossley. Recorded Books.
- “Ragnarok” by A.S. Byatt. Narrated by Harriet Walter. Brilliance Audio.
- “The Winter Ghosts” by Kate Mosse. Narrated by Julian Rhind-Tutt. Recorded Books.

**“Oleander Girl,” by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. Narrated by Sneha Mathan. Recorded Books/Simon & Schuster Audio.** (ISBN 9781470334420). Upon the death of her grandfather, Korobi learns a shocking family secret and, postponing her wedding, journeys to America, searching for truths that must be discovered before her own life can really begin. Mathan voices an array of exquisite accents and entrancing cadences to imbue Korobi’s quest with the spicy flavor of India.

Listen-Alikes:

- “Caramelo” by Sandra Cisneros. Narrated by Sandra Cisneros. AudioGo/Blackstone Audio.

- “Unaccustomed Earth” by Jhumpa Lahiri narrated by Sarita Choudhury and Ajay Naidu. Random House/Books on Tape.
- “The Joy Luck Club” by Amy Tan. Narrated by Gwendoline Yeo. Phoenix Audio.

**“River of Stars,” by Guy Gavriel Kay. Narrated by Simon Vance. Recorded Books.** (ISBN 9781470327521). While barbarians attack the decadent government of Kitai, a fantasy world resembling ancient China, a young man emerges from the provinces to save the empire and becomes a legend. Vance manages the sweeping plot, including a large cast and action-rich details, while masterfully conveying the lyrical, elegiac tone that pervades the novel.

Listen-Alikes:

- “Gates of Fire” by Steven Pressfield. Narrated by George Guidall. Recorded Books.
- “Genghis: Birth of an Empire” by Conn Iggulden. Narrated by Stefan Rudnicki. Blackstone Audio.
- “Killer Angels” by Michael Shaara. Narrated by Stephen Hoye. Books on Tape.

**“The Signature of All Things,” by Elizabeth Gilbert. Narrated by Juliet Stevenson. Penguin Audio/Blackstone Audio.** (ISBN 9781482927757). Stevenson’s sublimely melodious, richly inflected voice brings myriad characters, places and even plants and animals to life in this story of a fictional 19<sup>th</sup> century botanist. Alma Whittaker’s goal of finding a connection between all living things takes her on a solo quest to exotic places on this journey of serendipitous self-discovery.

Listen-Alikes:

- “Bellwether” by Connie Willis. Narrated by Kate Reading. Blackstone Audio.
- “The Lieutenant” by Kate Grenville. Narrated by Nicholas Bell. Bolinda Audio/Brilliance Audio.
- “Prodigal Summer” by Barbara Kingsolver. Narrated by Barbara Kingsolver. Recorded Books.

**“The Son,” by Philipp Meyer. Narrated by Will Patton, Scott Shepherd, Kate Mulgrew, and Clifton Collins, Jr. Harper Audio.** (ISBN 9780062280954). Through three interwoven story lines, this powerful, sprawling family saga maps the history of Texas from 1849 onward. A cast of expert narrators immerse listeners in time and place through their voices alone, exquisitely rendering characters and effectively dramatizing this captivating audio production.

Listen-Alikes:

- “The Searchers” by Alan Le May. Narrated by Tom Stechschulte, Richard Ferrone, and James Jenner. Recorded Books.
- “Fall of Giants” by Ken Follett. Narrated by John Lee. Books on Tape.
- “All the Pretty Horses” by Cormac McCarthy. Narrated by Frank Muller. Harper Audio/Recorded Books.

**“Vampires in the Lemon Grove,” by Karen Russell. Narrated by Arthur Morey, Joy Osmanski, Kaleo Griffith, Jesse Bernstein, Mark Bramhall, Michael Bybee, Romy Rosemont, and Robbie Daymond. Books on Tape.** (ISBN 9780385367462). Quirky, innovative, and brightly new, Russell’s collection of short stories blurs the line between horror,

fantasy and myth. Her impressive scope is well matched by the diverse narrators voicing the collection — all of whom fully realize her eerie eclecticism in accent, mood, pace and quiet terror.

Listen-  
Alikes:

- “Astray” by Emma Donoghue. Narrated by Khristine Hvam, James Langton, Robert Petkoff, Suzanne Toren, and Dion Graham. Hachette/Blackstone Audio.
- “Echoes from the Macabre” by Daphne du Maurier. Narrated by Valentine Dyll. Blackstone Audio.
- “A Visit from the Goon Squad” by Jennifer Egan. Narrated by Roxana Ortega. Blackstone Audio.

**“The Warden,” by Anthony Trollope. Narrated by David Shaw-Parker. NAXOS AudioBooks.** (ISBN 9781843796862). Shaw-Parker inhabits the role of

Trollope’s amiable narrator in this social drama of English village life as he companionably guides readers through the often-amusing perils of ecclesiastical politics. With a splendid mix of gleeful pomposity and heartfelt sympathy, he portrays the whimsical cast and their stories just as Trollope must have imagined them.

Listen-Alikes:

- “Cranford” by Elizabeth Gaskell. Narrated by Nadia May. Blackstone Audio.
- “My Man Jeeves” by P. G. Wodehouse. Narrated by Jonathan Cecil. Blackstone Audio.
- “Pickwick Papers” by Charles Dickens. Read by David Timson. Naxos AudioBooks.

**“World War Z,” by Max Brooks. Narrated by a full cast. Books on Tape.** (ISBN 9780449807897).

Melancholy in tone and rich in social insights rather than action-packed disaster, this futuristic apocalyptic “mockumentary” of life after the zombie wars features vivid characterizations and smart, provocative commentary. The well-staged interviews performed by an all-star cast of 40 skilled narrators project a you-are-there feel.

Listen-Alikes:

- “Dracula” by Bram Stoker. Narrated by a full cast. Recorded Books.
- “Earth Unaware” by Orson Scott Card. Narrated by a full cast. Macmillan Audio.
- “Zone One” by Colson Whitehead. Narrated by Beresford Bennett. Books on Tape.

This list was selected by The Listen List: Outstanding Audiobook Narration Council, whose members include Jen Baker, Reader Services Librarian, Seattle Public Library; Di Herald, Program & Outreach Manager, Delta County Libraries (Colo.); Joyce Saricks, chair, Readers’ Advisory Consultant, Downers Grove, Ill.; Neal Wyatt, Virginia Commonwealth University; Renee Young, NoveList audiobook project team lead, Durham, N.C.

The [Reference and User Services Association \(RUSA\)](http://www.ala.org/rusa), a division of the American Library Association, represents librarians and library staff in the fields of reference, specialized reference, collection development, readers' advisory and resource sharing. RUSA is the foremost organization of reference and information professionals who make the connections between people and the information sources, services, and collection materials they need. Not a member, but interested in being part of a member community and enjoying discounted registration rates on conference, preconferences and other events? Join, renew or add RUSA to your ALA membership at [www.ala.org/membership](http://www.ala.org/membership). Learn more about the association at [www.ala.org/rusa](http://www.ala.org/rusa).

# Dr. Grace Jackson-Brown wins RUSA's Zora Neale Hurston Award for leadership in promoting African-American literature

PHILADELPHIA — The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has announced Dr. Grace Jackson-Brown as its selection for the 2014 Zora Neale Hurston Award.

The Zora Neale Hurston Award is an achievement award given by the Collection Development and Evaluation Section (CODES) of RUSA. The award was founded in 2008 and is given to an individual ALA member who has demonstrated leadership in promoting African American literature. To further the professional development of the winner so that he or she can continue to build multicultural collections and serve diverse populations, the winner receives funds to attend the ALA Annual Conference, tickets to the FOLUSA Author tea and a set of the Zora Neale Hurston books published by Harper Perennial at the time the award is made.

Dr. Grace Jackson-Brown, assistant professor of library science at Missouri State University was selected for the Springfield African American Read-In program, which celebrates African-American authors and literacy, and the Dream Big program, which showcases African-American authors, promotes reading by youths and adults and encourages all to dream big! Dr. Jackson-Brown also co-authored the article “The African-American Read-in: Building Campus and Community Partnerships,” *College and Research Libraries News*, 74(7) 2013, pp. 364-367.

The winner was selected by the 2014 Zora Neale Hurston Award Committee, whose members include Jannie R. Cobb, Chair, National Labor College; Cynthia Crosser, University of Maine and Diane Mohr, District of Columbia Public Library.

The [Reference and User Services Association](#), a division of the American Library Association, represents librarians and library staff in the fields of reference, specialized reference, collection development, readers’ advisory and resource sharing. RUSA is the foremost organization of reference and information professionals who make the connections between people and the information sources, services, and collection materials they need. Not a member, but interested in discounted registration rates on conference, preconferences and other events? Join, renew or add RUSA to your ALA membership at [www.ala.org/membership](http://www.ala.org/membership). Learn more about the association at [www.ala.org/rusa](http://www.ala.org/rusa).



# Francine Graf selected as RUSA's Louis Shores Award winner for excellence in book reviewing

PHILADELPHIA — The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has selected Francine Graf, managing editor of *Choice* magazine, as the 2014 winner of the Louis Shores Award.

The Louis Shores Award recognizes an individual reviewer, group, editor, review medium or organization for excellence in book reviewing and other media for libraries.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014, *Choice* reviews resources for academic audiences. Graf has worked at *Choice* since 1982 and has made outstanding contributions to reviewing. During her tenure at *Choice*, Graf has been a true leader and has been instrumental in *Choice Reviews Online* from its first iteration. Graf has worked diligently to increase the scope of and access to *Choice*; she was the driving force behind the inclusion of database and website reviews in *Choice*, she initiated the *Internet Resources Newsletter*, created the monthly “5 Great Books” feature and has worked to provide free *Choice* reviews through social media outlets. Additionally, she is someone her colleagues and readers of *Choice* continually rely on for guidance and inspiration.

Francine Graf will be presented with the Louis Shores Award at the RUSA Achievement Awards at the 2014 American Library Association Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

The winner was selected by the Louis Shores Award committee, whose members include Emily Hamstra, Chair, University of Michigan; Edward Kownslar, Texas A&M, Corpus Christi; and Barry Trott, Williamsburg (Va.) Regional Library.

The [Reference and User Services Association \(RUSA\)](#), a Division of the American Library Association, represents librarians and library staff in the fields of reference, specialized reference, collection development, readers’ advisory and resource sharing. RUSA is the foremost organization of reference and information professionals who make the connections between people and the information sources, services, and collection materials they need. Not a member, but interested in being part of a member community and enjoying discounted registration rates on conference, preconferences and other events? Join, renew or add RUSA to your ALA membership at [www.ala.org/membership](http://www.ala.org/membership). Learn more about the association at [www.ala.org/rusa](http://www.ala.org/rusa).

# Best Free Reference Websites

FROM COMMITTEES OF RUSA

[The Fifteenth Annual List](#)

RUSA MARS: Emerging Technologies in Reference Section

RUSA MARS contributing members: Erica Swenson Danowitz and Donna Scanlon Co-Chairs, Georgia Baugh, Sarah Lehmann, Clare Miller, Clark Nall, Ashley Rosener, Colleen Seale, Virginia Sojdehei, Paul Victor, and Janice Wilson

Welcome to the fifteenth annual "Best Free Reference Websites" list. This project has existed since the late 1990's. Fifteen years ago (1998), the Machine-Assisted Reference Section (MARS) of RUSA appointed an ad hoc task force to develop a method of recognizing outstanding reference websites. This task force became a formal committee at the 2001 ALA Annual Conference, and is appropriately named the MARS Best Free Reference Websites Committee.

As in the past, the 2013 list of winning sites will appear in this Fall issue of RUSQ. A link to this year's list of winners can also be found on the MARS webpage ([www.ala.org/rusa/sections/mars/marspubs/marsbestfreewebsites/marsbestref2013](http://www.ala.org/rusa/sections/mars/marspubs/marsbestfreewebsites/marsbestref2013)) along with a link to the "Best Free Reference Websites Combined Index," which provides, in alphabetical order, all entries from the current and previous fourteen lists. Committee members wrote succinct and insightful annotations for the Best Free Reference Websites List entries in the years the particular websites were selected for the lists. These annotations provide guidance for using the websites as reference tools. Once again, the committee considered free websites in all subject areas useful for ready reference and of value for most libraries.

The committee has established the following criteria for nominations:

- \* Quality, depth, and usefulness of content
- \* Ready reference
- \* Uniqueness of content
- \* Currency of content
- \* Authority of producer
- \* Ease of use
- \* Customer service
- \* Efficiency

\* Appropriate use of the web as a medium

More detailed explanation of the criteria can be found on the MARS webpage ([www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/sections/mars/marspubs/marsbestrefcriteria.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/sections/mars/marspubs/marsbestrefcriteria.cfm)).

As in previous years, the committee worked virtually, using email and the online bookmarking site Diigo ([www.diigo.com](http://www.diigo.com)). Each member nominated five to seven websites using the criteria specified above and then wrote brief annotations that would assist fellow committee members with reviewing and voting for their favorite nominated websites. The goal of this year's committee was to produce a final list with approximately twenty-five to thirty high-quality reference websites. It was another excellent year in terms of nominations. Over 70 websites were nominated and committee members were charged to vote for the best ones. After careful review, the committee members recognized twenty-six new Best Free Reference Websites for 2013.

Winning sites were notified electronically with a letter of recognition from the MARS Best Free Reference Websites Committee. These sites were invited to link to the online version of this list. The co-chairs also edited the annotations for the winning websites to ensure that they fit the criteria listed above.

#### [BEST WEB WINNERS 2013](#)

Census Bureau: Economic Indicators, [www.census.gov/cgi-bin/briefroom/BriefRm](http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/briefroom/BriefRm)

This Census Bureau website brings together the latest numbers for over a dozen key economic indicators, such as new residential construction, home ownership rates, and U.S. international trade on goods and services. The site's layout is simple and readable. There are links to the current press release about the indicators, links to historical data, and a quick comparison to last month's data.

Author/Publisher: Census Bureau Date reviewed: 2/27/2013

ChooseMyPlate.gov, [www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov)

Whether you are a vegetarian or meat lover, want to lose weight, up your physical activity, or find daily eating-healthy tips, ChooseMyPlate.gov has answers to your questions. Users can set calorie goals, find sample menus and food plans here. MyPlate helps to build a healthy plate of food covering all five food groups. The site includes SuperTracker an online tool to track, plan, and guide food selections. It provides tips on how to increase physical activity. The site has information for consumers of all age groups and also for professionals.

Author/Publisher: United States Department of Agriculture Date reviewed: March 8, 2013

Citi-Data.com, [www.city-data.com](http://www.city-data.com)

Citi-Data is the perfect means for researching any city, zip code, or neighborhood, whether for personal reasons or for reports and research. The information is limitless, and includes: home

value estimator, geographical data, state profiles, crime data, religions, political contributions, unemployment data, and many other categories.

Author/Publisher: Advameg, Inc. Date reviewed: 2/28/2013

City Mayors: Mayors Running the World's Cities, [www.citymayors.com/index.html](http://www.citymayors.com/index.html)

"The City Mayors Foundation, an international think tank dedicated to urban affairs, consists of professionals working together in Europe, North and South America, Asia, and Africa to promote strong and prosperous cities as well as good local government. Established in 2003, City Mayors encourages city leaders from across the world to develop innovative and sustainable solutions to long-standing urban challenges such as governance, society, housing, transport, education and employment." The site offers a worldwide view of major events, politics, ethics, environment, economics, finance, city branding, business, culture, education, security, and other topics.

Author/Publisher: City Mayors Foundation Date reviewed: March 8, 2013

Codecademy, [www.codecademy.com](http://www.codecademy.com)

"Learn to code interactively, for free." Codecademy teaches the basics of JavaScript, HTML, Ruby, Python, and more using free interactive web-based lessons. The learner starts coding right from the beginning, and the lessons are contained within the website, so it doesn't require any installation or downloading. Users are asked to register to keep track of their progress. There is also a large and active community of users who provide support and work on projects together.

Author/Publisher: Codecademy Date Reviewed: 1/31/2013

Compare 50: Comparing Economic Performance Across the United States, <http://compare50.org>

Compare 50 is an interactive website allowing users to compare economic and demographic data across all 50 states. Users select the type of data they want to see, the date range, and which states they would like included in the chart. The information updates in real time. The website is intuitive, fun to use, and presents the data in an interesting, understandable, and visually appealing way.

Author/Publisher: Next 10 Date reviewed: 1/31/2013

Coursera, [www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org)

Coursera partners with top universities and professors to offer courses online free to anyone. Courses are offered in a wide range of topics (23 categories) including biology, business, computer science, humanities, mathematics, medicine, social sciences and many more. There are over 2.8 million participants and 325 courses offered at 62 participating universities worldwide (four continents & five languages). This site is appropriate for college students or those individuals wishing to continue the pursuit of lifelong learning.

Author/Publisher: Coursera--an educational technology company founded by Stanford University computer science professors Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller. Date reviewed: 2/28/13

Densho, <http://densho.org/densho.asp>

Densho is a Japanese term meaning "to pass on to the next generation," or to leave a legacy. The legacy offered here is a history of incarceration during World War II. What began with capturing oral histories from Japanese Americans incarcerated during WWII has become a mission to educate, preserve, collaborate, and inspire action for equity. The Archive contains more than 800 hours of interviews and visual histories as well as over 10,000 images documenting Japanese American history. The site also contains a timeline, links to other useful websites, and recommended printed material. The Learning Center provides multidisciplinary lessons featuring firsthand accounts for upper elementary to undergraduate students.

Author/Publisher: Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project Date Reviewed: 3/6/2013

Dietary Supplements Labels Database,  
<http://dietarysupplements.nlm.nih.gov.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/dietary>

Dietary Supplements Labels Database allows users to search "information about label ingredients in more than 7,000 selected brands of dietary supplements" sold in the United States to compare the ingredients in different brands. Users can also browse by brand name, target population (Men, Women, Seniors, Kids/Teens), and ingredient. Supplements include vitamins, minerals, amino acids, and protein boosters, along with many other types of dietary supplements. Each product entry contains Product, Ingredient, and Manufacturer Information tabs. Product Information includes Unit described, Supplement Facts, Other Ingredients, Manufacturer's Suggested Use, Label Warnings, Claims of Manufacturer, NIH and other Research Center Fact Sheets (if available), and more. An ingredient search or browse retrieves an entry with "direct links to pertinent health information, fact sheets, research findings and on-going clinical studies at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)." This database is a useful tool for locating and comparing dietary supplement information for anyone researching, taking or considering taking dietary supplements since it brings much information about dietary supplements together in one place.

Author/Publisher: United States National Library of Medicine based on the Dietary Supplements On-Line Database (DSOL) ©2005-2012 by DeLima Associates Date reviewed: 2/24/2013

DOAB: Directory of Open Access Books, [www.doabooks.org](http://www.doabooks.org)

DOAB's primary purpose "is to increase discoverability of Open Access books." To be included in this directory, a book must be "available under an Open Access license (such as a Creative Commons license)" and "subjected to independent and external peer review before publication." Currently, there are 1,272 academic books from 35 publishers, almost all published within the last 10 years or less. Both a simple keyword search and advanced search are possible. The advanced search allows the user to specify what to search: Title, ISSN/ISBN, Author, Keyword, Abstract, or Publisher. At time of review, titles in this database are in English, German, Italian,

Dutch, or Russian. Books can be downloaded in PDF or read online. This is a growing collection of academic books appropriate for students or casual readers interested in having access to reasonably current, freely available ebooks.

Author/Publisher: OAPEN Foundation Date reviewed: 2/24/2013

Dynamic Periodic Table, [www.ptable.com](http://www.ptable.com)

This website is an interactive periodic table with "dynamic layouts showing names, electrons, oxidation, trend visualization, orbitals, and isotopes." There is a search engine where users can search for compounds, formulas, elements, etc. This periodic table can be used as a quick reference or for more in-depth research. The site pulls information from Wikipedia and WebElements and also provides photos, videos, and podcasts for the different elements. The site is easy to navigate, tablet friendly, visually appealing, available in multiple languages, and has a flexible interface.

Author/Publisher: Michael Dayah Date reviewed: 2/26/2013

Historical Newspapers Online, <http://guides.library.upenn.edu/historicalnewspersonline>

Historical Newspapers Online collects links to historic U.S. newspapers fully accessible in digital archives, collections and libraries on the web. Familiar resources include Chronicling America (Library of Congress) and Google News. This site is organized by state and contains some lesser-known newspaper titles. Coverage includes the late nineteenth and twentieth century.

Author/Publisher: University of Pennsylvania Libraries Date reviewed: 3/7/13

Holocaust Encyclopedia, [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org)

This multimedia encyclopedia of the Holocaust (Shoah) includes more than 300 articles on the history of the destruction of the Jews of Europe. Each topical or biographical entry deals with one aspect or person and is enhanced by photographs, documents, oral histories, ID cards, artifacts, animated or still maps, historical film footage, music, and/ or individual life stories. Major topics covered include the history of the Holocaust, the Aftermath, Anti-Semitism, the Camp System, Children, Einsatzgruppen, Extermination Camps, the Final Solution, Forced Labor, Ghettos, Jewish Resistance, Liberation of Nazi Camps, Mosaic of Victims, Non-Jewish Resistance, Pogroms, Racism, Refugees, Rescue, Third Reich, United States and the Holocaust, War Crimes Trials, Women, and World War II. Encyclopedia articles and materials are available in: English, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Turkish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indonesian, Greek, Arabic, Farsi, and Urdu.

Author/Publisher: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Date reviewed: 2/20/2013

Human Body Maps, [www.healthline.com/human-body-maps](http://www.healthline.com/human-body-maps)

This site allows visitors to explore the human body in 3D. By mousing over the male or female body provided on the landing page, users can learn more about many aspects of human anatomy. Bodies can be rotated around and viewed through different layers such as the circulatory or the lymphatic system. Clicking on the head for example, provides images and information on that area of the body from the brain to the muscular structure, to arteries and nerves. All body parts and systems have labels that can be viewed or hidden. A search feature also allows users to look up a particular body part or system. Embedded links to additional resources complement the interactive models.

Author/Publisher: Healthline Networks, Inc. Date reviewed: 2/28/13

Journalist's Resource, <http://journalistsresource.org>

The Journalist's Resource project is run by staff and graduate students at the Harvard Kennedy School. It offers access to scholarly reports and papers on a wide range of topics of interest to media practitioners, educators, students and others. To be included, research must generally be empirically based, peer-reviewed, published, and the product of a major university, government body, or nonpartisan research organization. The reference section offers information and links to online tutorials on core journalism skills such as interviewing, style, ethics, and more. The site also offers syllabi for educators.

Author/Publisher: Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy-Harvard University Date reviewed: 3/6/13

LibriVox, <http://librivox.org>

This site provides free access to the audio version of the classics found in the public domain. Most of the texts come from the Project Gutenberg site, and include a variety of authors such as Dickens, Victor Hugo, James Joyce, Mark Twain, and Tolstoy. Volunteers provide the audio to the numerous works found in this resource. Visitors can search the LibriVox Catalog to search a title or author. They can also view recently added titles or browse the entire collection. There are also audiobooks in other languages including German, French, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, and Spanish just to name a few. All audio files can be accessed on a computer or downloaded to any MP3 or portable audio player. They are available in a variety of MP3 or other audio formats. An entire work or individual chapters can be downloaded. This site should also help individuals who want to improve their foreign language and/or reading skills.

Author/Publisher: LibriVox Date reviewed: 2/28/13

Media History Digital Library, <http://mediahistoryproject.org>

The history of American cinema, broadcasting and recorded sound can be found in trade magazines and other journals. The Media History Digital Library seeks to make these materials in the public domain widely available for free. By digitizing collections of classic media periodicals in the public domain the Media History Digital Library is able to make extensive runs of periodicals available online. The current selection available includes: Business Screen (1938-

73), The Film Daily (1918-36), International Photographer (1929-41), Journal of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers (1930-49), Journal of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (1950-54), The Educational Screen (1922-62), Motion Picture [Magazine] (1914-41), Moving Picture World (1907-19), Photoplay (1914-40), Radio Age: Research, Manufacturing, Communications, Broadcasting, Television (1942-57), Radio Broadcast (1922-30). A list of "Select Holdings" is available on the Collections page (<http://mediahistoryproject.org/collections/>). Tip: To access the collection click on the icon/triangle next to the title.

Author/Publisher: Media History Digital Library Date Reviewed: 3/6/2013

MyEnvironment, [www.epa.gov/myenvironment](http://www.epa.gov/myenvironment)

MyEnvironment allows searching for environmental data and other environmental information by location. Users can search by ZIP code, street address, county name, body of water name, National Park name, or any place name that appears on a roadmap. The results for the area appear by topic: MyMaps allows viewing and downloading of EPA and partner data specific to the area searched; MyAir reports on daily air quality; MyWater provides water quality for surface water such as creeks, rivers, or lakes in the designated area; MyEnergy includes estimates for various types of energy production, consumption, and cost by source and type; MyHealth catalogs air pollutants that are known to cause cancer, birth defects, or serious illness; MyLand lists National Priorities List sites with hazardous substances or contaminants in the ground; MyCommunity provides a way for the user to submit any project or movement in the area that will benefit the environment; and MyEnvironmental Reports provides links to analytical reports prepared by cities, counties, or states related to environmental conditions in the area. This resource also provides code that allows users to add a variety of environment-related search widgets to a website. For anyone who wants an overview of the state of the environment in a particular place, this is the site to use.

Author/Publisher: Environmental Protection Agency Date reviewed: 2/24/2013

National Association of Counties (NACo), [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)

NACo is the only national organization representing the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs. It "researches, publishes, and disseminates a variety of information for and about counties, as part of its mission to increase public understanding of counties." This website is easily navigable and can be searched by keyword. It provides an index to all counties in the United States. Users can search for counties by population, county seat, using a city search, or by using a map. Each record lists elected county officials, the county seat, county website, county population, and links to Census Bureau data.

Author/Publisher: National Association of Counties (NACo) Date reviewed: 2/25/2013

Old Maps Online, [www.oldmapsonline.org](http://www.oldmapsonline.org)



This site offers digitized versions of old world maps provided by various participating institutions including the British Library's map collection, the Harvard Library, the New York Public library and other institutions. Users can search for a place or zoom on a particular area using a world map found on the main page of the site. It uses GPS technology to pull up maps that span centuries from 1000 to 2010. Searching or zooming on a particular region produces a list of old maps that can be viewed to the street level. A timeline that allows users to look for historical maps from a set period is also included.

Author/Publisher: The Great Britain Historical GIS Project based at The University of Portsmouth, UK and Klokant Technologies GmbH, Switzerland. Date reviewed: 2/26/13

Pew Social and Demographic Trends, [www.pewsocialtrends.org](http://www.pewsocialtrends.org)

The Social and Demographic Trends project of Pew Research provides reports written from 2005 to the present. The reports cover a broad range of topics. Topics covered range from the 2012 Election through Criminal Justice, Family Roles, Retirement, Teens and Technology, to Work and Employment with many topics in between listed alphabetically. The site is designed with many appealing photographs, charts and graphs illustrating the text. Navigation from one section to another is always available with links in a bar across the top of each page. This resource includes downloadable datasets from which the reports were derived. The site also offers interactive media including videos from 2008 to present, all detailing social and demographic trends in the United States. "The Data Gallery, Our Life in Numbers" section, at the time of this review, shows the percent of married adults in 1960 compared with today (72 percent to 51 percent). This is a well-researched, accessible resource for researchers, students, and the general public interested in "Numbers, Facts and Trends Shaping Your World."

Author/Publisher: Pew Research Center Date reviewed: 2/27/2013

SAH Archipedia: Classic Buildings, <http://sah-archipedia.org>

The SAH Archipedia is an authoritative online encyclopedia of the building world published by the Society of Architectural Historians and the University of Virginia Press. Within this site users will find histories, photographs, and maps for more than 8,500 structures and places. This site also includes landscapes, monuments, artwork, and more. This content is from the Buildings of the United States (BUS) book series and includes content from 12 of the BUS volumes including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, Michigan, Iowa, Colorado, Nevada, and Alaska. This content demonstrates the richness and diversity of architecture and building practices across many centuries. This collection is expected to grow as more of the BUS series is digitized.

Author/Publisher: Society of Architectural Historians and the University of Virginia Press Date Reviewed: 3/6/2013

STATS: We Check out the Numbers Behind the News, [www.stats.org](http://www.stats.org)

This non-partisan, nonprofit site takes major issues and news stories and analyzes them solely from a quantitative and scientific perspective. Hot topics found in the news and society such as alcoholism, obesity, global warming, and addiction are covered in detail and debunk particular claims or stereotypes through hard data. The site also offers a page where statistical terms and particular data tools are described. A blog discusses issues found in current events (such as the Budget Sequester when this reviewer accessed it last) and uses statistical data to comment, support, or disagree with the issue. Links to other statistical resources are also included. This website is a helpful resource for anyone writing argumentative papers, preparing for a debate, or wanting to learn more about statistical analysis.

Author/Publisher: Statistical Assessment Service--STATS Date reviewed: 3/2/13

VideoLectures.NET, <http://videlectures.net>

This website promotes science and the exchange of ideas by providing high quality content to both the scientific community and the general public. It offers an "award-winning free and open access educational video lectures repository." The lectures are given by distinguished scholars and scientists at important occasions such as conferences, summer school programs, workshops, and promotional events. All the lectures, accompanying documents, information and links are systematically selected and classified through an editorial process that takes into account user comments.

Author/Publisher: VideoLectures.NET Date reviewed: 3/1/2013

Web Gallery of Art, [www.wga.hu/index.html](http://www.wga.hu/index.html)

This website is a virtual museum and searchable database of European art. It offers information related to art from the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Neoclassicist, Romantic, Realist, and Impressionist periods. It includes over 30,000 images, artist biographies, commentaries, and guided tours. Users can take various "tours" including a European sculptors or an Italian painters tour. Accompanying each thumbnail image is the artist, title, year, medium, and owner (museum) information. Thumbnail images often include links to other works by that particular artist.

Author/Publisher: Emil Krén and Dániel Marx Date Reviewed: 3/8/2013

World Bank Open Knowledge Repository,  
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org.proxy2.library.illinois.edu>

Launched in April 2012, the World Bank Open Knowledge Repository provides access to over 9,000 (and growing) research works. Works are primarily from 2005 to the present and include books, World Bank Annual Reports, World Development Reports (1978 to present), journal articles from World-Bank-published journals (2007-11), outlook reports primarily containing data, Policy Research Working Papers (2005-present), and more. Since the World Bank collects and disseminates information on the state of world development, the publications cover many aspects related to this issue. This repository also examines worldwide trends such as economics, education, finance, poverty, or water resources by geographic area or country. Users may search

across the entire repository or browse by Collections, Authors, Publication Date, Topics, or Titles. This rich source of facts, data, and reports will interest researchers, students, and the general public.

Author/Publisher: World Bank Date reviewed: 2/27/2013

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# Best Historic Materials (to be published in Spring issue of *RUSQ*)

FROM COMMITTEES OF RUSA

RUSA History Section

War of 1812 in the Collections of the Lilly Library

<http://collections.libraries.iub.edu/warof1812/>

Reviewed Nov. 1, 2013

The War of 1812 is often a forgotten war in American history. Resources, let alone digital objects, are often hard to access. Indiana University has made available content such as correspondence, maps, and government reports in its digital collection *War of 1812 in the Collections of the Lilly Library*. This site is easy to use gives great contextual background on each topic area. The topics include the lead up to the war, the war itself, and its ramifications. Each topic has five digital objects that relate to the content. Each object has zoom features and can be downloaded as a pdf file. The only drawback is that there is no transcript for the correspondence. Other outstanding features include an interactive timeline that chronologically arranges topics and subject tags that can easily searched. The ideal users would be high school and college students who need primary sources on the War of 1812 and the early republic.

Jacob Sherman

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Baltimore 68: Riots and Rebirth. Special Collections, University of Baltimore. November, 2013. <http://archives.ubalt.edu/bsr/>

Reviewed Nov. 1, 2013

Baltimore entered a two week period of civil unrest after the April 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King. Although sparked by King's death, Baltimore's riots were part of the Civil Rights Movement. Baltimore's African Americans lived in inadequate housing, faced high rates of unemployment, and suffered from the general decline associated with white flight—all of these factors contributed to riots. During the unrest the Governor called in the National Guard, the President sent members of the Army, six people died, and significant damage occurred to the city.

As part of a fortieth anniversary of the riots, the University of Baltimore hosted an academic conference. "Baltimore 68," the online component of this commemoration is an impressive public-history site that explains what happened and how it continues to affect the city. The site makes many primary sources accessible, including over sixty oral histories, digitized newspaper clippings, local government documents, news footage, and numerous photo galleries. These and other primary sources make it possible to understand what happen and for a student to write a paper or complete a project. However, there are other features that make "Baltimore 68" far more than a static digital collection. There is a downloadable "Driving Tour" that describes

where key events occurred and how they still influence in the current cityscape. The “1968 Retrospective Calendar” demarks significant events occurring, both nationally and locally, with hyperlinked articles to primary sources. This feature puts events of 1968 into context with one another. “Baltimore 68” does an excellent job at documenting this turbulent time and provides guidance to other institutions embarking in commemorating an event electronically.

Sara E. Morris  
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

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Civil War Diaries and Letters. University of Iowa Libraries. <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/cwd/>.  
Reviewed Nov. 1, 2013

The University of Iowa’s Civil War Diaries and Letters web site contains digitized items from the University’s Special Collections. There are two primary navigational features: “Browse the Collection,” which has a drop-down box that allows the selection of diaries, correspondence, photographs, or items from a single year, and a standard search box in the upper-right corner. Both options lead to a standard search results page, in with “Civil War Diaries and Letters” is selected on the left. Using the “browse” feature simply conducts a search for that type of document. The results page allows the user to further narrow the search via the search text box at the top and expandable categories on the lower left. Each result is displayed with a thumbnail image along with title and year directly below. Hovering over a thumbnail produces a pop-up window that displays that item’s topical subjects, date of original, and any available description. Clicking on an item leads to the digitized document along with detailed description immediately below. Thumbnails for individual pages are on the right, along with a “Content” tab that displays an expandable table of contents for the document. A “Text” tab generates a searchable transcription of the document in standard type. The site is attractive and easy to navigate, with minimal clutter on the home page. There is however no “About” page containing descriptive information about the collection, nor any link to information regarding the scope and overall contents, though one may find by browsing “All” that there are 228 documents. Overall, Civil War Diaries and Letters is a useful and attractive resource for Civil War and Iowa history enthusiasts.

Matthew J. Wayman  
Penn State Schuylkill  
Schuylkill Haven, PA

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Hurricane Digital Memory Bank, <http://www.hurricanearchive.org/>. George Mason University’s [Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media](#) and the [University of New Orleans](#).

Reviewed Nov. 1, 2013

The Hurricane Digital Memory Bank (HDMB), organized in November 2005 by George Mason University’s [Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media](#) (CHNM) and the [University of New Orleans](#) (UNO), is an impressive effort in collecting and preserving first-hand accounts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and their aftermath for historical record. Because the CHNM and UNO partnered with the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History and

several other national and Gulf Coast area organizations and individuals to quickly launch the HDMB website, primary resources were captured as they were being created. The bank consists of digital objects including contributed images, podcasts, videos, and blog postings of personal accounts, from anyone affected by these hurricanes. Users can browse by image, personal stories, oral histories, maps, or tags or search through several metadata fields and collections. Contributed collections also can be browsed which include the Smithsonian National Museum of American History Hurricane Katrina Photos, United States Coast Guard Released Photographs of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Katrina's Kids Project Artwork, Hellicane: Poets Respond to Hurricane Katrina, The Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage at The University of Southern Mississippi, and several more. Given the Award of Merit for Leadership in History, and being the largest free public archive of Katrina and Rita, the Hurricane Digital Memory Bank makes a unique and powerful contribution to research in multiple disciplines and to the preservation of an American experience for future generations.

Jennifer Hootman,  
Minitex  
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, Minneapolis

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*KnowLA: Encyclopedia of Louisiana.* Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities  
<http://www.knowla.org/> Reviewed November 1, 2013

With the cute play on words the name KnowLA says it all. Presently intended for interested lifelong learning adults, this website brings together a wide range of information about Louisiana history and culture. Future stated plans include making the site more child friendly which will increase the benefit to school age children. At present the categories covered by the site include: Architecture, Art, Folklife, History, Literature, and Music. The category Government/Politics only appears when one clicks on the categories tab. It is not included on the drop down menu of categories. Knowing Louisiana has a rich history related to government and politics, one can hope that this category is added to the drop down menu as people will miss it unless they go to the page for categories. What is especially interesting is the sites incorporation of images, audio files, videos, multimedia, along with documents. Thus if one searches for Marsalis in the upper right hand corner search box (instead of using the navigation bar) one finds three entries for Branford, Ellis, and Wynton Marsalis along with links to images and a video. The site is also searchable by region which allows one to easily key in on such regional wonders as the Troyville Earthworks in Northeastern Louisiana. It has a created date of 2010-2013 and content is actively being added to the site. This website is recommended for anyone who wants to know more about Louisiana.

Mary Wilke  
Center for Research Libraries

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RICHS of Central Florida: Regional Initiative for Collecting the History, Experiences and Stories of Central Florida. University of Central Florida. <http://riches.cah.ucf.edu/>.  
Reviewed Nov. 1, 2013

RICHES of Central Florida brings incorporates several interdisciplinary public history projects focused on Central Florida and its residents. It currently includes seven projects on such diverse topics as local businesses; GLBT history; home movies; local travel; documentaries; Florida surfing; and military veterans. Some of these projects, such as the GLBT History Museum of Central Florida and the “Surfing Florida” exhibit, also have their own websites that are supplemented by digitized documents and other artifacts from RICHES.

Development of the RICHES project began in 2009, with Phase 1 completed in 2011. The RICHES Mosaic Interface (RMI) is the main gateway for the digital projects and includes images, documents, podcasts, oral histories, and films. The interface includes mapping of search results to connect each document with a location in Central Florida. Search results can be enlarged, and each item includes a full description.

Overall, this site is visually attractive and informative, with the ability to connect local historical events spatially and temporally. The search engine is easy to use, but may take some exploration to understand all of its features.

Jerilyn Marshall  
University of Northern Iowa

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Digital Collections for the Classroom: Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* and Utopias of the European Renaissance. Hana Layson and Kasey Evans. Reviewed Nov. 1, 2013

This is a teaching tool website for use in high school or college classrooms. It is quite short, containing pages from several texts and images from different Renaissance period books, along with questions students are to answer about the content, so they will learn how Renaissance writers and artists wanted people to imagine the New World and about the concept of utopia. Hana Layson is coordinator of digital collections for classroom use at the Newberry Library. Kasey Evans is an associate professor of English literature at Northwestern University. The site was produced in conjunction with Evans’ Teachers as Scholars seminar lecture at the Newberry Library, Chicago, May 20, 2011, called “Utopias of the European Renaissance.” The site presents short interpretive narratives about the topic as it relates to each of several books followed in each case first by a digital image from it and then several questions to the students which could be used for oral classroom discussion or as homework assignments. These are the works the site presents: Sir Thomas More’s Utopia, 1516; André Thevet’s New Found Worlde or Antartike, 1557; Michel de Montaigne’s Essay “Of Cannibals”, 1603 in English; Thomas Hariot’s Briefe and True Report of the New Found land of Virginia, 1590, engravings by Theodor de Bry; Theodor de Bry’s Grandes Voyages, v. 4 America, 1594; and Henry Fuseli’s painting of Act 1 Scene ii of Shakespeare’s The Tempest, 1803 edition, published by John Boydell. The first three works are represented by narrative texts with accompanying questions; the others are represented by illustrations, with accompanying questions. This is a successful, basic teaching tool, which accomplishes its purpose straight forwardly, without glitz.

High school libraries would not be likely to have these works, even in modern editions, so bringing them to the classroom via digital projection for discussion is admirable. Some college and university libraries might have copies of these books in their libraries' rare book rooms, but they would not circulate. In any case, projecting the images for the whole class to see and discuss together is worthwhile use of digital technology in education.

Agnes Haigh Widder

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

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Papers of the War Department: 1784 to 1800

Reviewed Nov. 1, 2013

Papers of the War Department is a historical resource of tremendous value. This archive seeks to reconstruct the lost records of the War department that resulted from a fire in 1800. A novel aspect of the archive is the crowd-sourcing digitization that the project uses to fulfill the creation of records. Users (1,538 as of October) are able to register with the site and then transcribe records from uploaded scans of documents. As these records were all handwritten the work of transcription can be challenging. However, the finished product is immensely valuable to historians studying the early years of U.S. history.

Researchers are able to look for specific mentions in a basic search or can simply browse what has already been digitized. The search option allows the researcher to formulate precise queries, undoubtedly the kind of tool most needed by scholars within such specialized archives. Browsing documents is accomplished two different ways; chronological order or by author. Document information includes helpful metadata such as the format of the document, author and recipient name, as well as related persons or groups. All of this information is linked to other documents in the collection, which makes the discovery of connects between places and people all the easier. Any researcher that has stared at seemingly meaningless scribbles on a page will appreciate the work done at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University.



# Best of the Best Business Websites (Free Resources)

BRASS education committee

BRASS Education Committee members: Natasha Arguello, Chair; Kim Bloedel, Leticia Camacho; Louise Feldman; Dan Hickey; Jared Hoppenfeld; Penny Hufman; Hiromi Kubo; Peter McKay; Rhonda Kleiman; Tom Ottaviano; Lee Pike; Susan Schreiner; and Christina Sheley

FROM COMMITTEES OF RUSA

## [The 2013 Winners](#)

The Best of the Best Business Websites (Free Resources) is a RUSA BRASS Award, established in 2009, which recognizes three highly relevant business websites as selected by Business Reference and Services Section (BRASS) Education Committee members. The winners are announced at the RUSA Book and Media Awards reception at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. You may view previous winners at [www.ala.org/rusa/awards/bestofthebestbus](http://www.ala.org/rusa/awards/bestofthebestbus). To access other BRASS-recommended resources, go to [brass.libguides.com](http://brass.libguides.com).

## [CATEGORY: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ECONOMICS](#)

World Bank Data, <http://data.worldbank.org.proxy2.library.illinois.edu>

Whether you're a researcher, a policy developer, or an entrepreneur, the need for robust and reliable information is paramount to success. Wouldn't it be nice if access to some of the world's most influential data and information were equally accessible regardless of one's socioeconomic standing? In recent years, the World Bank has adopted this policy and has opened up all of their data and information globally to anyone with Internet access.

The World Bank's current mission is to eliminate the "extreme poverty" (earnings of under \$1.50 per day) experienced by over one billion people, and to boost shared prosperity around the world by 2030. To meet these lofty and admirable goals, the World Bank is taking a radical approach: in 2010 they opened all their databases to the public free of charge. Since then, they have continued to adopt a policy of openness and transparency in the collection, calculation and distribution of all World Bank knowledge. While they still continue to lend money, they've increased their efforts to support developing nations through policy advice, data collection and analysis, and technical support.

The resources available on the World Bank site are extensive, and include an Open Knowledge Repository (this went active in July of 2012), several research, teaching, and learning tools, news, live sessions with experts, widgets to push data to user websites, API downloads for developers, and much more. Among all these impressive options, at the very heart of the World Bank's website, is the data portal. The World Bank helps to develop internationally accepted standards, methodologies, sources, definitions, and classifications and uses these to gather and create data of the highest quality. The vast majority of the data found on the website are annual

"development indicators" for over 200 economies across the globe, and nearly all of the data used to calculate these indicators come from official government sources and other widely respected sources such as UNESCO and the IMF. Since many of these sources are not released annually, the World Bank will frequently make estimates based on accepted statistical method. Any questionable results or data are simply not added.

World Bank Data provides you with several options for navigation and information retrieval. You can conduct research by country (or region), browse in broad categories such as "Agriculture & Rural Development" and "Gender" or search for specific indicators. With over 200 different countries represented and over 1600 different indicators with data in some cases going back as far as 1960, there are millions of data points available to everyone. Just about everything is linked together by toolbars, making navigation from one page to another quick and intuitive. For those looking for more refined data or more flexibility in their searches, there are options to search in the "World Databank" (a customizable database of all World Bank Data) or the Data Catalog (the original sources for all World Bank Data).

Be aware that the World Bank is frequently adjusting many of the pages on their website (including, earlier this year, an overhaul of the databank). There is a two year lag for almost all data, and the sheer number of indicators available can make navigating the page a time consuming process. Finally, because the World Bank gathers data from a number of different sources, inconsistencies can occasionally be found. When necessary, they will make revisions to already published data to improve accuracy.

As the international push toward openness and transparency continues to grow, look for more of the World Bank's peers to follow their lead and either contribute to the World Bank's open repositories, or to create similar resources of their own. World Bank Data brings tremendous value to governments, educators, researchers, students and the civil society around the world. Highly Recommended. All levels/libraries.

--Thomas Ottaviano

[CATEGORY: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS/ENTREPRENEURSHIP](#)

Doing Business: The World Bank and the International Finance Corporation,  
[www.doingbusiness.org](http://www.doingbusiness.org)

Decades of experience and empirical research in economic development has shown that the business climate in individual countries greatly influences the success of the private sector which generates an estimated 90 percent of jobs in developing countries. Doing Business (DB) is a joint project of The World Bank (WB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) that provides unbiased measures of business regulations for local firms in 185 countries and a selection of sub-national regions and cities. DB establishes annual benchmarks to compare starting, operating and growing small and medium-sized companies over the life cycle across these economies, regions and cities. The purpose is to encourage governments to foster entrepreneurial start-ups by developing reasonable regulations, laws and institutions.

Three principles guide what DB measures: (1) less regulation promotes growth; (2) lending and investment require strong property rights and the enforcement of debt collection; and (3) lighter regulation and taxes encourage firms to shift from the informal (underground) economy to the formal sector. DB publishes a composite ranking of the "Ease of Doing Business" in each economy. Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and the United States are foremost while the worst are the Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of Congo, and Eritrea.

The overall ranking is derived from rankings on 10 topics using 11 "indicator sets." The Topics are: Starting a Business; Dealing with Construction Permits; Getting Electricity; Registering Property; Getting Credit; Protecting Investors; Paying Taxes; Trading Across Borders; Enforcing Contracts; and Resolving Insolvency. For example, "Starting a Business" assumes that the firm is a limited liability company located in the largest business city with 10--50 employees conducting general commercial or industrial activities. The indicators used are the number of procedures required to legally start and operate a business; time required to complete each procedure; official cost of each procedure measured as percent of income per capita (does not include bribes); and minimum capital required (percent of income per capital). The data are compiled from reports provided by 9,600 in-country contributors: lawyers, accountants, judges, businesspeople, and public officials, all of whom are identified with full contact information.

The DB rankings can only measure regulatory performance of the economies relative to one another. WB has devised a "Distance to Frontier" measure to show how the regulatory environment is changing over time and the size of the gaps for each indicator between the highest ranking and each individual economy's rating. Rankings do not consider many other factors that influence business success such as proximity to large markets, infrastructure, security, economic conditions, and transparency in government procurement. DB covers only the formal sector.

The DB project has been the subject of some controversy because it measures regulations from the firm's point of view. Critics allege that the rankings encourage countries to relax standards that protect workers, women, and the environment. In response to the criticism the WB president has appointed an independent review panel whose report will be released to the public this year.

The DB website has an impressive array of resources and is remarkably easy to use. Current and historical data on all 185 economies can be viewed and downloaded into Microsoft Excel, including topic rankings, indicator values, and lists of regulatory procedures and details underlying the indicators. The entire 282-page 2013 DB report can be downloaded as a PDF. Each individual country report can be viewed and downloaded as well. Abstracts of recent research with full citations are covered. Brief summaries of business regulatory reforms undertaken in the past year and lists of reforms since DB2008. A ranking simulation tool explores how changes in regulations impact rankings. An online law library links to the full-text of business laws and regulations and gender issues. There are links to related World Bank data and publications.

Doing Business is part of the World Bank's initiatives to encourage a dynamic business environment in developing and developed countries. It has been very successful in providing

objective measures and benchmarks for reform. Since its first publication 10 years ago 180 economies have implemented nearly 2,000 regulatory reforms.

--Peter Z. McKay

[CATEGORY: CAREERS/HUMAN RESOURCES](#)

Occupational Outlook Handbook, [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)

Whether you are seeking information on a specific profession or are just browsing for a potential career change, this resource is a helpful starting place. Sponsored by the United States Department of Labor and compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) website offers all of the information from the BLS annual publication Occupational Outlook Handbook. The site data mirrors the information offered in the print version with some minor exceptions--charts, graphs, and photos are in color instead of cheaper-to-print black and white, and different aspects of the profession (Work Environment, Education/Training, etc.) are broken down via separate tabs rather than headings allowing easy access to the areas of most interest. The website goes beyond the print publication with helpful search boxes and easy access to further research via the BLS's other websites and data.

Three hundred forty one occupations are profiled, covering 85 percent of the jobs in the national economy. Each profile offers general information on what the work entails, what the work environment is like, how much one can expect to earn, and how to train for the job, as well as helpful links to professional organizations for getting started in the profession. The BLS employment projections of growth rate and number of new jobs for the 2010--2020 decade are included with each occupation's profile.

Contained within the BLS website, the top of the OOH site has seven tabs: OOH Home, Occupation Finder, OOH FAQ, OOH Glossary, A-Z Index, OOH Site Map, and En Español. The homepage contains a multitude of ways to search for occupational information. The easiest is by selecting one of the 25 "occupational groups" listed (from 'Architecture and Engineering' to 'Transportation and Moving Materials') and reviewing the list of occupations contained within. The homepage also features an occupation search box where the user can limit choices to factors such as median pay, education required, and growth rate, while a browse feature allows the user to search predetermined parameters including Highest Paying, Fastest Growing (Projected), and Most New Jobs (Projected).

An easy to miss but important link at the bottom of the homepage under additional data is "data for occupations not covered in detail," which covers an additional 162 occupations not featured in the 341 primary occupations. Covering about 11 percent of all jobs, this link provides details on occupations as diverse and specialized as "Mathematical Technicians" and "Clergy," and gives some valuable basic information when a full profile is not feasible.

The Occupation Finder presents a simple grid with important information about each occupation including Entry-Level Education, On-The-Job Training, Projected Number of New Jobs, Projected Growth Rate, and 2010 Median Pay. Utilizing this tool, a searcher can narrow down

professions to the factors most relevant to them. For example, searching for occupations that only require a high school education yet pay over \$75,000, one learns they are required to either become an "administrative services manager" or a "nuclear power plant operator."

The FAQ is broken down into seven subsections, including "Employment Estimates and Growth" and "Military Careers," each answering to a series of questions about that section. However, the list of the subsections at the top is counter intuitive and may easily be missed, forcing the user to either scroll down to see additional questions or leave the page not realizing there are more FAQs further down the page. The Glossary defines hundreds of terms used throughout the website, whereas the "A--Z Index" features an alphabetical listing of formal job titles and cross-listed popular job titles. The OOH Site Map deserve some special recognition as it is the only place that simply lists the occupations contained in each of the 25 occupational groups. This is probably the best starting point for someone aware of what occupation they wish to search, but foggy on where it may be located. Most of the data, especially the homepage, are replicated in a linked Spanish language site. This free website is appropriate for everyone interested in learning more about specific occupations.

--Susan A. Schreiner

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By Peter Z. McKay; Thomas Ottaviano and Susan A. Schreiner

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# Outstanding Business Reference Sources 2013

FROM COMMITTEES OF RUSA

## [BRASS Business Reference Sources Committee](#)

BRASS Business Reference Sources Committee contributing members: Becky Smith, selections editor; Susan Hurst, chair; Ed Hahn, nominations coordinator; Valerie Freeman; Brittany Gessinger; Naomi Lederer; Glenn McGuigan; Joan Plungis; Penny Scott; and Suzanne Sweeney. For information contact Becky Smith, Business Information Services Librarian, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801217 333-3619; becky@illinois.edu

Each year, the Business Reference Sources Committee of BRASS selects the outstanding business reference sources published since May of the previous year. This year, the committee reviewed twenty-seven entries; of these, two were designated as "Outstanding," four were selected as "Notable," two were designated as a "Significant New Edition" and one was designated in a new category, "Overlooked Treasure," which signifies that the work has been out for two or more editions, but previously not reviewed by the Committee. To qualify for the award, the title must meet the conventional definition of reference: a work compiled specifically to supply information on a certain subject or group of subjects in a form that will facilitate its ease of use. With print reference materials being used less heavily in most cases, these works stood out based on their content, quality, and utility. The works are examined for the following: authority and reputation of the publisher, author, or editor; accuracy; appropriate bibliography; organization; comprehensiveness; value of the content; currency; unique addition; ease of use for the intended purpose; quality and accuracy of index; and quality and usefulness of graphics and illustrations. Each year, more electronic reference titles are published. Additional criteria for electronic reference titles are accuracy of links, search features, stability of content, and graphic design. Works selected must be suitable for medium- to large-size academic and public libraries.

## [OUTSTANDING](#)

*Making Sense of Business Reference: A Guide for Librarians and Research Professionals.* By Celia Ross. Chicago: American Library Association, 2013. 186 p. Paper \$52 (ISBN: 978-0-8389-1084-9). Also available as PDF and e-book for various e-readers.

Made up of twelve chapters (plus a stumbers section and index), this extremely useful guide will be helpful to the beginning through advanced librarian or researcher. The preface notes that public and academic librarians are fielding questions from larger numbers of people who are seeking advice related to business. At the same time, resources are not as numerous as in the past. The book examines free and fee-based resources, the author freely admitting that items are placed in what she thinks is the most useful order, and that some readers might sequence them differently. The assumption is that business reference questions terrify more researchers than not, but reading the book should be a confidence booster. Focusing on the process is emphasized.

Celia Ross has worked at different kinds of libraries which all had at least some business questions. Because of this she has hands-on experience and personal familiarity with the resources she recommends and describes. *Making Sense of Business Reference* does not pretend to be the be-all and end-all business reference book, but it gives an excellent overview of strategies and processes along with titles of key resources. It is a great starting point for business librarians and for those librarians who get the occasional business question.

Reasons for categorizing this book as outstanding are that it is accessible, very reasonably priced, and the primary audience is librarians. The emphasis on practicality is another reason for its label of outstanding. Ross identifies and lists the core four types of questions and provides examples. Entire chapters cover methods for answering questions to do with company, industry, finance, investment, consumer information, and business statistics. Other chapters address international and small businesses.

Types of information (e.g. commodities and futures) first have a definition, followed by annotated lists of resources. Depending upon the topic, definitions range from one or two sentences to a page in length. Multiple links throughout the book point to individual resources and bibliographies. There is a list of guides and handbooks recommended for reference collections.

One quibble is that throughout the e-book URLs and some other segments of text are in a thin rounded font (different from the regular text) that looks grayed and can be difficult to read, especially in dim light. It is possible that this is because the e-book editions have active links for one or more of these categories, but it makes for decreased legibility in the print version. It is to be hoped that a legible-in-all-versions standardization (for all books and articles) will be established by publishers, large to small, sooner rather than later. One other quibble is that bibliography for the section on "Business Reference Guides and General Searching Handbooks" in one of the chapters contains some author and editions errors, but some may be due to errors in Worldcat when fact checking.

The "Stumpers" (real life questions), which make up a large section of the book at 55 pages, are arranged by broad category: Companies, Industry, Finance and Investing, Demographics and Consumer Behavior, Statistics, International, Small Business, and Miscellaneous. More specific topics in this section are indexed with the pages numbers bolded; for example, green companies. Not all questions have a ready answer, something noted in other sections of the book. This book is recommended for all public, corporate, and academic libraries.

--Naomi Lederer

*Encyclopedia of New Venture Management*. Edited by Matthew R. Marvel. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2012. 512 p. \$125 (ISBN: 978-1-4129-9081-3). Also available as an e-book.

Entrepreneurship is a field growing in popularity, which encompasses a variety of other disciplines. This fact is reflected in *The Encyclopedia of New Venture Management*, edited by Matthew R. Marvel, who is currently the Coffman Chair of Entrepreneurial Studies and Associate Professor at West Virginia University, as well as board member of the United States

Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) and a recipient of the Kauffman Foundation Dissertation Fellowship.

The Encyclopedia of New Venture Management is a one-volume collection of essays on a selection of topics associated with the study and practice of entrepreneurship. Marvel's purpose in editing this text is to bring together and show connections among the variety of disciplines inherent in entrepreneurship, and to increase general understanding of the complexities of this growing field.

The book includes entries on topics ranging from day to day considerations for new ventures such as how to leverage social media, to essays on psychological constructs that influence the formation and growth of new ventures, including motivation and creativity. This inclusion of the psychology of entrepreneurship encourages readers to more broadly explore the discipline of entrepreneurship, beyond the basics of accounting and human resources. These topics reflect Professor Marvel's professional body of research and give this book a dimension beyond basic definitions and concepts about how to start a business.

Organizationally, there are features of the encyclopedia that assist in creating connections among concepts, and drawing out narrower subtopics. One such tool is the thorough index, which helps the reader navigate to narrower subtopics within the essays, and another is the "Readers Guide," which groups encyclopedia entries into larger categories. For instance, the Readers Guide heading of Entrepreneurial Characteristics and Skills brings together essays on risk management, credentials, and cognition. The other 16 "Readers Guide" categories include Corporate Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurial Decision Making, Entrepreneurial Leadership and Human Resources, Entrepreneurial Marketing, Entrepreneurial Opportunity and Education, Entrepreneurs: Biographies and Case Studies, Entrepreneurship Financing and Economic Development, Franchising, Gender and Minority Entrepreneurship, Innovation, International Entrepreneurship, Legal Issues in Entrepreneurship, Small Business Management, Social Entrepreneurship, Technology Entrepreneurship, and Theoretical Perspectives and Entrepreneurship. In addition, each essay includes a "See Also" reference that lists related topics, as well as a list of materials for further reading. Rounding out the tools for readers is a glossary and an appendix that lists several prominent entrepreneurship websites, a chronology of major events in the field of entrepreneurship going back as far as 1790, and at the end of the book, a resource guide that lists both classical and modern works on entrepreneurship and new venture management, along with recommendations for leading entrepreneurship journals and websites.

This work is a great addition to academic and public collections serving students and researchers of entrepreneurship. What makes it outstanding is its timeliness, its usability, and the conceptual and organizational way the book brings to light and makes connections between the seen and unseen

volume 53, issue 2 | Winter 2013 185 Outstanding Business Reference Sources 2013 influences on new ventures. It will be a useful work for researchers and entrepreneurs who want to delve deeper into the topic of entrepreneurship, and who want an excellent all-in-one starting place.

--Penny Scott



## NOTABLE

Encyclopedia of Crisis Management. Edited by K. Bradley Penuel, Matt Statler, & Ryan Hagen. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2013. 2 vols. 1176 p. Hardcover \$350 (ISBN: 978-1-4522-2612-5).

This two-volume encyclopedia describes crisis management in its introduction as an evolving field originating in the 1980s with events such as the Tylenol poisonings in 1982, and more recently the financial crisis of 2008.

The editors of the Encyclopedia of Crisis Management include nearly 350 informative articles with contributions from university professors, independent scholars, and other organizations, such as the Joint Centre for Disaster Research, that regularly deal with crises. The articles cover a wide range of topics, where about 75 percent of them have at least some business connection. Some article topics include strategic plans, logistics, social media, and training. Each article provides a good overall analysis of a topic, a "See also" section of other related articles within this encyclopedia, and a section on further readings. For example, the article on strategic plans is comprised of the importance of strategic plans, the components of a strategic plan, timeline of a strategic plan, the strategic planning process, and good practices. This article also has three case studies dealing with health care, government censorship, and the strategic planning process for providing relief assistance to certain African countries. Another article on logistics looks at the planning and design of relief programs, with an overview on transport, storage, project planning, and the consequences of logistics failure. A case study is included with this article focusing on numerous logistical challenges workers faced during the Haitian earthquake of 2010.

Articles in this encyclopedia appear in alphabetical order, with the table of contents listing the first page number of each letter. The end of the second volume includes a glossary, an appendix from the United Nations Development Programme, and a detailed index.

With a wide range of topics, a good overview on each topic, and the easy to use layout, the Encyclopedia of Crisis Management is a recommended resource for business and other reference collections, in academic and public libraries.

--Ed Hahn

Key Concepts in Organization Theory. By John Luhman and Ann Cunliffe. London: Sage, 2013. 182 p. \$40 (ISBN: 978-1-84787-552-5).

This work is one of a series of the "Key Concepts" books by SAGE. Books in this series typically cover a range of big ideas and theories in a succinct and understandable style ideal for those looking for introductory background information. They are organized alphabetically and this particular work includes the following topics: Agency Theory, Alienation, Authority, Bureaucracy, Business Strategy, Complexity Science, Contested Exchange Theory, Control, Cooperativism, Corporate Governance, Decision Making, Discourse in Organizations, Environmental Uncertainty, Environment-Organization Interaction, Flexibility, Globalization, Industrial Democracy, Institutional Theory, Labor Process Theory, Life Cycle Models, Materiality, Organization Structure and Design, Organizational Change, Organizational Culture,

Organizational Learning and Knowledge Management, Organizational Space, Postmodern Turn and Organization Studies, Power and Politics, Scientific Management, Stakeholder Theory, Storytelling and Narrative Research, Structuration Theory, Systems Theory, Technology and Organization Structure, and Transaction Cost Economics.

Each concept is covered in two to five pages, beginning with a one-sentence definition and going on to cover the origins of the concept, including citations of seminal research articles. This is followed by a discussion section focusing on changes in the area and current views of the topic. The end of each entry includes lists of related terms in a "See also" section, followed by "further readings," and a list of cited references. The book also includes a table of contents and a useful index, which gives more specific access points into the broad ideas covered.

This book provides a good overview, particularly for those seeking information on the origins of ideas as they relate to business in general and specifically the field of Organizational Theory. More in-depth than a dictionary and written in an accessible style, this is an excellent source for introductory information and historical materials on these types of broad concepts and terms which students often find hard to define or pin down.

--Susan Hurst

Managing Diversity in Today's Workplace. By Michelle A. Paludi. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO/Greenwood, 2012. 4 vols. Hardcover \$215 (ISBN: 978-0-3133-9317-4).

Edited by Michelle A. Paludi, this useful work provides an assortment of essays addressing diversity in the workplace. A four volume set, this collection is part of the Women and Careers in Management series published by ABC-CLIO/ Greenwood. The set is divided into four volumes, with the first titled, "Gender, Race, Sexual Orientation, Ethnicity, and Power"; the second volume, "Work-Family Integration Strategies"; the third volume, "Workplace Politics"; and the fourth volume, "Multicultural Management Strategies for Organizations." Each volume is approximately 240 pages in length and contains a separate index.

The authors explore various dimensions of workplace diversity, an important topic for business research and practice. The unique aspect of this work is how it expands the exploration of diversity by addressing subjects that go beyond traditional approaches that deal only with gender and racial discrimination in the workplace. These issues include gender stereotypes for traditionally masculine and feminine occupations, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other issues dealing with lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender (LGBT) populations. Geared toward employees, managers, and consultants, topics within the set include mentoring, ethics training, flexible work schedules, generational diversity, bullying, as well as other topics.

While the collection is not strong on empirical research, the focus appears to be providing best practices and guidelines for managers in dealing with and managing diversity in the modern U.S. workplace. Providing tools for managers to enhance productivity, effectiveness, and employee morale, with an emphasis upon gender and LGBT populations, the collection shows how managing and promoting diversity can lead to business success. This work is recommended for large business collections.

--Glenn S. McGuigan

The 100 Most Significant Events in American Business: An Encyclopedia. By Quentin R. Skrabec Jr. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO/Greenwood, 2012. 323 p. \$85 (ISBN: 978-0-313-398629).

This is a single-volume encyclopedia that covers important events in American business history. These events include a wide variety of ideas, politics, and technological developments, such as an introduction of copyright, architectural developments in building, and the development of CD-ROMS and Google. The chosen events thus cast a wide net over the world of business.

The layout of this text is chronological. Each of the 100 entries is two to three pages in length, and provides a basic overview of the topic, while also situating it specifically in the world of business. Many of the entries also have a cross-referencing addition, advising the researcher to look at other potentially related entries. All of the entries include a short list of references. A few of the entries also include images, which add some depth. Another important addition to this volume is in the Appendix, which includes many primary documents from the volume's entries. Capping off the text is a more complete bibliography.

While undoubtedly someone could find another business event or development which arguably could be included, each of the entries that make the 100 deserves its spot. This volume will be of interest to just as wide a variety of libraries and patrons; public libraries, community colleges and other two-year programs, as well as universities and other larger institutions. The entries in this encyclopedia provide a starting point for each of the included events, but taken as a whole, they also paint a picture of business history.

--Valerie Freeman

#### [SIGNIFICANT NEW EDITIONS](#)

Strauss' Handbook of Business Information: A Guide for Librarians, Students, and Researchers, 3rd Ed. By Rita W. Moss and David G. Ernsthausen. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited, 2012. 399 p. \$90. (ISBN: 978-1-59884-807-6). Also available as an e-book.

Strauss' Handbook is a tool book of business sources in all formats, designed for librarians, library school students, general business researchers, and entrepreneurs who have little or no experience in conducting business research. Since the second edition in 2003, Rita Moss has collaborated with one of her colleagues at UNC's Kenan-Flagger School of Business, David Ernsthausen, to churn out a great work with significant revisions, particularly with government websites and commercial online products, and an added appendix on "Finding Business Case Studies," a frequently asked question by academic researchers.

The book is divided into two parts. Part I is "Basic Resources, Print & Internet," comprised of 6 chapters, which are more of how to conduct business research, such as finding company information, prominent general business periodicals, how to locate and interpret statistics and ratios and the all-important chapter, defining an industry, then locating industry data via free and

selected commercial sources. What is different from the previous edition is that some of the chapters have been shifted around because of the business researching landscape of more sources being online, including some which have no print counterpart.

Part II consists of the remaining 9 chapters under the topic "Fields of Business Information," which are more like subject guides with context and explanations. The chapters on banking, investments, and futures are particularly noteworthy as the structure has changed with the advent of the federal passages of Sarbanes-Oxley and Dodd-Frank acts. Any researcher who wants a simplified explanation on futures and options without having to take a course can learn how they function and where to find information on them. This is pertinent to a public services librarian who may not have a business background and finds oneself struggling in assisting users in the business information discovery process.

The authors endeavor to include classic business reference books, even if they are out of date. Many of them have historical data that is invaluable, such as what a stock may be worth for tax purposes or if the company went out of business. The book also includes many websites containing free and open information to anyone, as well as some expensive databases that may be only available at academic institutions. It should be noted however, the book is not without some editorial anomalies, such as a CPI figure which does not match the caption, and an omission of a major business reference guidebook's bibliographic information in the chapter and in the index. Nonetheless, Moss and Ernsthausem succeed in revising a remarkable work that should be kept handy near any public, corporate, or academic reference desk.

--Becky Smith

Accountant's Handbook. Lynford Graham, D. R. Carmichael. 12th ed. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2012. 2 vols. Paperback \$240 (ISBN: 978-1-118-17180-6).

The twelfth edition of this highly regarded handbook continues the tradition begun with the 1923 first edition of providing a comprehensive reference source for understanding current financial statements and reporting issues. It is a practitioner's resource structured to facilitate understanding today's complex accounting-related subjects in rapidly changing business environment. This new edition reflects new Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Codification, and includes expanded coverage of fair value and guidance on developing fair value estimates, fraud risk and exposure, healthcare, and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

This work has been published as a 2 volume set since the eighth edition in 1996. The volume titles have remained the same. The first volume--Financial Accounting and General Topics--provides a comprehensive review of the framework of current accounting guidelines including organizations that developed both national and international standards; guidance on financial statement presentation, disclosure and analysis including SEC filing regulations; and coverage of specific financial statement areas and analysis. Volume Two--Special Industries and Special Topics--covers specialized environmental and accounting considerations for key industries including real estate, government, oil, health care, not-for-profit, and the film industry, coverage of accounting standards applying to pension plans, retirement plans and employee stock

compensation, other capital accumulation plans. Additionally, other diverse topics such as reporting by partnerships, estates and trusts, and valuation, bankruptcy and forensic accounting are covered.

Each of the forty-three chapters begins with its own table of contents facilitating access to specific points within the chapter. Some redundant, historical, or overlapping chapters have been removed in this edition. Most chapters include a Sources or Additional Reading section. Both volumes provide topical cross-references. Previous editions had a separate chapter covering international issues, but this edition incorporates an international accounting perspectives into most chapters. Exhibits are pepper through the volumes as examples of how data are presented or for clarification. While reference to the new Financial Accounting Standards Board Codification are included in each chapter, sometimes the original statements are also included. New to this edition are chapters on fair value and valuation of private companies.

Previous editions have also had annual cumulative supplements and the first supplement to this edition will be published in October 2013.

--Suzanne Sweeney

#### [OVERLOOKED TREASURE](#)

The Complete CPA Reference. By Nick A. Dauber, Jae K. Shim and Joel G. Siegel. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2012. 725 p. \$65 (ISBN: 978-1-118-11588-6). Also available as an e-book.

While this book has been published since 1988, the Complete CPA Reference provides comprehensive coverage of accounting principles and clear descriptions of practical problems that makes this work a valuable addition to any library and deserving of the title of overlooked treasure. Now in its fifth edition, this work covers a wide range of accounting topics: financial accounting, financial statement analysis, financial planning, managerial accounting, quantitative analysis and modeling, auditing, and taxation. It includes references to accounting standards including: generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB).

While written as a guide for practicing CPAs, this work will be helpful for anyone looking to understand financial and managerial accounting. This book is organized in a question-and-answer format which helps to break down difficult subjects into easy to understand segments and presents readers with solutions to typical accounting problems. It is filled with examples of problems, guidelines, checklists, and step-by-step instructions to help accounting students and the seasoned accountant solve issues accountants face in their everyday work.

The book is divided into six sections: part I accounting basics, financial reporting and specialized topics focused on GAAP, part II analyzing business financial statements, part III managerial accounting, part IV auditing, compiling and reviewing financial statements, part V taxation and lastly, part VI additional professional standards including American Institute of CPA (AICPA) Code of Professional Conduct.

Earlier additions of this book were published under the title The Vest Pocket CPA with the most recent edition published in 2008. The newly titled edition has been updated to reflect the latest laws/standards and highlights changes with the heading: Accounting Standards Update. Further, it demonstrates differences between U.S. GAAP and IFRS. Additional changes are more cosmetic, the book used to be slightly smaller to be a pocket guide.

The book is well organized, clearly written and provides great practical applications for accounting principles in the form of real world examples and instructions. The guidelines, checklists and illustrations provide a CPA, accounting student, or other interested readers a resource for quick answers and concise analysis. It is relatively inexpensive and is also available as an e-book. The Complete CPA Reference is an overlooked treasure that would be a welcome accounting reference in any business collection.

--Brittany Geissinger

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By Brittany Geissinger; Suzanne Sweeney; Becky Smith; Valerie Freeman; Glenn S. McGuigan; Susan Hurst; Ed Hahn; Naomi Lederer and Penny Scott

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# RUSA announces 2014 Outstanding Reference Sources List

PHILADELPHIA — The most noteworthy reference titles published in 2013 have been named to the 2014 Outstanding Reference Sources list. Sponsored by RUSA's Collection Development and Evaluation Section (CODES), the Outstanding Reference Sources Committee was established in 1958 to recommend the most outstanding reference publications for small and medium-sized public and academic libraries.

## The 2014 winners are:

*American Civil War: The Definitive Encyclopedia and Document collection*, Spencer C Tucker, Editor; ABC-CLIO.

*The Literature of Propaganda*, Thomas Riggs, editor. St. James Press/Gale Cengage.

*Music in American Life: An Encyclopedia of the Songs, Styles, Stars, and Stories That Shaped Our Culture*. Jacqueline Edmondson, Editor. Greenwood.

*Encyclopedia of the U.S. Presidency: A Historical Reference*, Nancy Beck Young, editor. Facts on File.

*A History of Jewish-Muslim Relations from the Origins to the Present Day*. Abdelwahab Meddeb and Benjamin Stora, editors. Princeton University Press.

*Frogs of the United States and Canada*, C. Kenneth Dodd Jr. author. Johns Hopkins University Press.

*Encyclopedia of the Mind*, Harold Pashler, editor. Sage Reference, publisher.

*Almanac of American Military History*. Spencer C Tucker, editor. ABC-CLIO.

*The Encyclopedia of Caribbean Religions*. Patrick Taylor and Frederick I. Case, editors. University of Illinois Press.

And though the title did not meet the criteria for our award, the committee wanted to publicly acknowledge Proquest for continuing publication of the *Statistical Abstracts of the United States*, an invaluable source to all libraries.

The winners were selected by the Outstanding Reference Sources Committee, whose members include Curtis Ferree, Chair, Fairfield University, Shelley Arlen, University of Florida, Cynthia Dudenhoffer, Central Methodist University, Julie Eliot, Indiana University South Bend, Annie Fuller, University City Public Library, University City, Mo., Adam Jackman, Pierce County Library, Washington, Jessica McCullough, Connecticut College, Daniel Pennell, University of

Pittsburgh, Alec Sonstebly, Metropolitan State University, Minn., Kathi Woodward, The Library Center, Mo.

The [Reference and User Services Association](#), a division of the American Library Association, represents librarians and library staff in the fields of reference, specialized reference, collection development, readers' advisory and resource sharing. RUSA is the foremost organization of reference and information professionals who make the connections between people and the information sources, services, and collection materials they need. Not a member, but interested in discounted registration rates on conference, preconferences and other events? Join, renew or add RUSA to your ALA membership at [www.ala.org/membership](http://www.ala.org/membership). Learn more about the association at [www.ala.org/rusa](http://www.ala.org/rusa).



# 'Like Dreamers' wins RUSA's Sophie Brody Medal winner for achievement in Jewish literature along with two honorable mentions

PHILADELPHIA — The winner of the 2014 Sophie Brody Medal is "Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation" by Yossi Klein Halevi, published by HarperCollins.

The Collection Development and Evaluation Section (CODES) of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) awards the Sophie Brody Medal to the author of the most distinguished contribution to Jewish literature for adults published in the United States in the preceding year. The award is a tribute to Sophie Brody established by her husband, Arthur, founder of the Brodart Foundation.

Using interviews with seven surviving members of the 55<sup>th</sup> Paratroopers Reserve Brigade, the author traces the history of Israel and the diverse political and religious ideologies that shape the nation.

The committee also selected two honor books: "My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel" by Ari Shavit, an intensely personal narrative history of the state of Israel published by Spiegel & Grau; and "The Worlds of Sholem Aleichem: The Remarkable Life and Afterlife of the Man Who Created Tevye" by Jeremy Dauber, a biography of one of the giants of Yiddish literature, published by Schocken.

The winners were selected by the Sophie Brody Medal Committee, whose members include chair Barbara Bibel, Oakland (Calif.) Public Library; Donald Altschiller, Boston University; Emily A. Bergman, University of Southern California; Jack Forman, San Diego Mesa College; Kathleen Gallagher, University City Library, Mo.; Elliot H. Gertel, University of Michigan; Danise G. Hoover, Hunter College; Edward Kownslar, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christie; Mary M.D. Parker, University of Minnesota; Adela Peskorz; Barry Trott, Williamsburg Regional Library, Va.

The [Reference and User Services Association \(RUSA\)](#), a Division of the American Library Association, represents librarians and library staff in the fields of reference, specialized reference, collection development, readers' advisory and resource sharing. RUSA is the foremost organization of reference and information professionals who make the connections between people and the information sources, services, and collection materials they need. Not a member, but interested in being part of a member community and enjoying discounted registration rates on conference, pre-conferences and other events? Join, renew or add RUSA to your ALA membership at [www.ala.org/membership](http://www.ala.org/membership). Learn more about the association at [www.ala.org/rusa](http://www.ala.org/rusa).

# 'Mammals of Africa' named RUSA's Dartmouth Medal winner for distinguished reference publication; also named two honorable mentions

PHILADELPHIA – The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has announced "Mammals of Africa" as the 2014 Dartmouth Medal award winner. The Dartmouth Medal, established in 1974, honors the creation of a reference source of outstanding quality and significance. The award is given to the best new reference source published in 2013.

"Mammals of Africa," written by Jonathan Kingdon and David Happold and published by Bloomsbury. This amazing source is the result of 15 years of detailed work. Covering every recognized mammalian species in Africa, it will serve as a rich source of information and as a baseline for preserving the biodiversity of this great continent. The illustrations, maps, charts and material are all outstanding. This work will be consulted by students and scholars for many years.

The Dartmouth Medal Committee is pleased to announce an Honorable Mention for the *International Encyclopedia of Ethics*, edited by Hugh LaFollette and published by Wiley-Blackwell. This comprehensive and interdisciplinary encyclopedia presents both ethical theory and practice in a scholarly yet approachable manner. This will be a welcome addition to electronic or print reference collections in libraries of all sizes.

The Dartmouth Medal Committee is also pleased to announce an Honorable Mention for the *Encyclopedia of Caribbean Religions* by Patrick Taylor, Frederick Chase, Sean Meighoo and Joyce Leung. It is published by the University of Illinois Press. This well researched title will fill a gap in current reference coverage. It will support interdisciplinary scholarship in the anthropology, sociology, history literature and religion of the Caribbean. We are proud to recognize this significant new reference work.

The winners were selected by the RUSA Codes Dartmouth Medal Committee. The members are: Jack O’Gorman, University of Dayton, chair, Drew Aflgren, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Christina McGowan, Fairfield University, Patricia Gregory, Saint Louis University, Angela Courtney, Indiana University, Nicolette Sosulski, Portage District Library in Portage Mich., Lise Snyder, UCLA, Teresa Omidsalar, California State University Los Angeles, Sarah Watstein, University of North Carolina Wilmington, David Tyckoson, California State Fresno, Janet Pinkley, California State Channel Islands.

The [Reference and User Services Association](#), a division of the American Library Association, represents librarians and library staff in the fields of reference, specialized reference, collection development, readers’ advisory and resource sharing. RUSA is the foremost organization of reference and information professionals who make the connections between people and the information sources, services, and collection materials they need. Not a member, but interested in discounted registration rates on conference, preconference and other events? Join, renew or

add RUSA to your ALA membership at [www.ala.org/membership](http://www.ala.org/membership). Learn more about the association at [www.ala.org/rusa](http://www.ala.org/rusa).

# RUSA's 2014 Reading List winners revealed: Librarians' top picks in genre fiction

PHILADELPHIA—The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has announced its selections for the 2014 Reading List as well as the short lists and read-alikes.

Established in 2007 by the CODES section of RUSA, The Reading List seeks to highlight outstanding genre fiction that merit special attention by general adult readers and the librarians who work with them.

The 2014 winners are:

## **Adrenaline**

"Red Sparrow" by Jason Matthews (Scribner)

This modern spy novel pits two covert operatives against each other in an intricate cat-and-mouse game. As Dominika and Nathaniel ply their tradecraft, they navigate the moral ambiguities of a post-Cold War world where no one is as they seem and betrayal is business as usual.

### Read-alikes

"Night Soldiers" by Alan Furst

"Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" by John le Carré

"Skinner" by Charlie Huston

### Adrenaline Short List

"The Caretaker" by A.X. Ahmad. (Minotaur Books)

"Ghostman" by Roger Hobbs. (Alfred A. Knopf)

"Lexicon" by Max Barry. (The Penguin Press)

"Lost" by S.J. Bolton. (Minotaur Books)

## **Fantasy**

"Vicious" by V.E.Schwab (Tor Books)

A friendly rivalry turns vicious when college friends Victor and Eli obtain super-human powers and use them for very different purposes. This dark paranormal fantasy, a riveting tale of vengeance and redemption, proves that extraordinary powers don't necessarily make superheroes.

### Readalikes

"Invincible" by Robert Kirkman

"Ex-heroes" by Peter Clines

"Steelheart" by Brandon Sanderson

### Fantasy Short List

"The Necromancer's House" by Christopher Buehlman (Ace Hardcover)

"A Natural History of Dragons" by Marie Brennan (Tor Books)

"American Elsewhere" by Robert Bennett Jackson (Orbit)

"The Golem and the Jinni: A Novel" by Helene Wecker (Harper)

### Historical Fiction

"The Outcasts by Kathleen Kent" (Little Brown and Company)

Love, morality and greed collide in this Reconstruction Era western. A whore without a heart of gold, Lucinda escapes from a Fort Worth brothel to begin a new life -- and a new con. She and her lover are bound to cross paths with Texas Ranger Nate, who is chasing stone-cold killer McGill. Both Nate and Lucinda are unforgettable characters, driven by the need to survive.

### Read-alikes

"The Sisters Brothers" by Patrick deWitt

"True Grit" by Charles Portis

"3:10 from Yuma" (film, Lionsgate Films, 2007)

### Historical Short List

"The Abominable: A Novel" by Dan Simmons. (Little Brown and Company)

"Longbourn" by Jo Baker (Alfred A. Knopf)

"Out of the Black Land" by Kerry Greenwood (Poisoned Pen Press)

"The Thicket" by Joe R. Lansdale (Mulholland Books)

### Horror

"Last Days" by Adam Nevill (St. Martin's Griffin)

Deep in debt, documentary filmmaker Kyle Freeman reluctantly accepts the financial backing of an enigmatic self-help guru to make a movie about infamous cult The Temple of the Last Days. Unique, atmospheric and deeply disturbing, Nevill delivers a visceral horror experience that will haunt readers long after they put the book down.

### Read-alikes

"The Grin of the Dark" by Ramsey Campbell

"House of Leaves" by Mark Z. Danielewski

"Paranormal Activity" (film, Paramount Pictures, 2009)

### Horror Short List

"Apocalypse Cow" by Michael Logan (St. Martin's Griffin)

"The Daylight Gate" by Jeanette Winterson (Grove Press)

"Doctor Sleep" by Stephen King (Scribner)

"Red Moon" by Benjamin Percy (Grand Central Publishing)

### Mystery

"Murder as a Fine Art" by David Morrell (Mulholland Books)

London, 1854: The Artist of Death ritualistically recreates the sensational Ratcliffe murders inspired by the writings of the notorious opium addict Thomas De Quincey. In this fast-paced

mystery, filled with colorful characters and authentic period detail, Scotland Yard detectives, along with De Quincey and his daughter must find the Artist of Death before he executes another macabre masterpiece.

#### Read-alikes

"The Bedlam Detective" by Stephen Gallagher

"The Maul and the Pear Tree: the Ratcliffe Highway Murders, 1811" by P.D. James and T.A. Critchley

"From Hell" by Alan Moore

#### Mystery Short List

"Alex" by Pierre Lemaitre (The MacLehose Press)

"The Beggar's Opera" by Peggy Blair (Pintail: The Penguin Press)

"How the Light Gets In: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel" by Louise Penny (Minotaur Books)

"Seven for a Secret" by Lyndsay Faye (Amy Einhorn Books)

#### **Romance**

"Any Duchess Will Do" by Tessa Dare (Avon)

Desperate for grandchildren, the Duchess of Halford strikes a bargain with her only son, Griff: pick a woman--any woman. If she can transform her son's choice into duchess material, he must marry the girl. Griff picks the least likely candidate in bluestocking barmaid Pauline, only to quickly realize he has no idea who he is dealing with. A humorous and clever historical romance with engaging characters you won't soon forget.

#### Read-alikes

"This Rake of Mine" by Elizabeth Boyle

"The Lady Most Willing" by Julia Quinn, Eloisa James, and Connie Brockway

"Then Comes Seduction" by Mary Balogh

#### Romance Short List

"Autumn Bride" by Anne Gracie (Berkley Books)

"The Heiress Effect" by Courtney Milan (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform)

"One Good Earl Deserves a Lover: The Second Rule of Scoundrels" by Sarah MacLean (Avon)

"The Rosie Project" by Graeme Simsion (Simon & Schuster)

#### **Science Fiction**

"Love Minus Eighty" by Will MacIntosh (Orbit Books)

Cryogenics adds a darkly humorous twist on dating, love and relationships in the 22nd century. This multi-perspective story provides a thought-provoking and poignant social commentary on power dynamics, gender, class and the ethical issues surrounding life after life-after-death.

#### Read-alikes

"Captain Vorpatril's Alliance" by Lois McMaster Bujold

"The Curiosity: A Novel" by Stephen Kiernan

"Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" (film, Universal Studios, 2004)

### Science Fiction Short List

"Abaddon's Gate" by James SA Corey (Orbit Books)

"Great North Road" by Peter F. Hamilton (Ballantine Books)

"Tales of Majipoor" by Robert Silverberg (ROC Trade)

"Wool" by Hugh Howey (Simon & Schuster)

### Women's Fiction

"Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes (St. Martin's Press)

Unemployed 26-year-old Louisa takes the only job she can find: as a "care assistant" to 35-year-old quadriplegic Will. When Louisa discovers the depth of Will's unhappiness, she embarks on a mission to convince him that life is worth living and in the process begins to think about her own future. This bittersweet, quirky novel recounts an unlikely friendship while grappling with complex issues in a realistic and sensitive manner.

### Read-alikes

"The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving: A Novel" by Jonathan Evison

"Talk Before Sleep: A Novel" by Elizabeth Berg

"You're Not You: A Novel" by Michelle Wildgen

### Women's Fiction Short List

"The Husband's Secret" by Liane Moriarty (Amy Einhorn Books)

"Necessary Lies" by Diane Chamberlain (St. Martin's Press)

"Reconstructing Amelia" by Kimberly McCreight (HarperCollins)

"The Storyteller" by Jodi Picoult (Emily Bestler Books)

The winners were selected by the The Reading List Council whose members include Alicia Ahlvers, Chair, The Kansas City Public Library; Craig Allen Clark: Stephanie Chase, BiblioCommons; Emily Anne Hamstra, University of Michigan Library; Jennifer Hendzlik, Anythink Libraries; Victoria Kemp, Flower Mound Public Library; Jared Mills, The Seattle Public Library; Vicki Nesting, St. Charles Parish Library; Gillian Speace, NoveList; Valerie Morgan Taylor, Chester County Library; Anne Chambers Theis, Henrico County Public Library.

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# RUSA reveals Notable Books List winners in outstanding fiction, nonfiction and poetry

PHILADELPHIA — The expert readers advisory and collection development librarians of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association, have selected the winning titles for the 2014 Notable Books List—an annual literary award that identifies outstanding and noteworthy fiction, nonfiction and poetry for adult readers.

Since 1944, the goal of the Notable Books Council has been to make available to the nation's readers a list of 25 very good, very readable and, at times, very important fiction, nonfiction and poetry books for the adult reader. This year's list was selected by the Notable Books Council, whose members include William Kelly, chair (Cuyahoga County Public Library), Katharine Phenix - vice-chair (Anythink Libraries) Jason Terry Beck (Sno-Isle Libraries- WA), Victoria Caplinger (novelist), Sharon Castleberry (DeSoto Public Library), Stacey Hayman (Rocky River Public Library), Sarah Jaffa (Kitsnap Regional Library), Liz Kirchhoff (Barrington Area Library), Julie Ann Murphy (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), A. Reuscher (The Pennsylvania State University Libraries), Sara Taffae (Independent) and Mary Callaghan "Cal" Zunt (Cleveland Public Library).

## **Fiction**

"Americanah" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Knopf)

The nuances and challenges of race, emigration and cultural identification are explored through the lives of two Nigerian lovers.

"Life After Life" by Kate Atkinson (Reagan Arthur)

What would happen if death were just a new beginning?

"Claire of the Sea" by Edwidge Danticat (Knopf)

A bittersweet fable of modern Haiti told in luminous prose.

"Too Bright to Hear Too Loud to See" by Juliann Garey (Random House)

The fragmented and unsettling perspective of a man grappling with mental illness.

"Enon" by Paul Harding (Random House)

A father struggles with the accidental death of his 15 year-old daughter. Grief on paper.

"Unchangeable Spots of Leopards" by Kristopher Jansma (Viking)

Around the world with a charmingly unreliable narrator in this coming-of-age tale.

"The Dinner" by Herman Koch (Hogarth)

If they sat next to us in a restaurant, we would do well to simply study our forks.



"Constellation of Vital Phenomena" by Anthony Marra (Hogarth)  
An affirmation of life amidst the chaos of war-torn Chechnya.

"The Woman Upstairs" by Claire Messud (Knopf)  
A taut psychological drama of slow-burning anger.

"Tale for the Time Being" by Ruth Ozeki (Viking)  
Tokyo meets Sunnyvale and British Columbia through a purple gel pen, a tsunami and a Hello Kitty lunchbox with a side of quantum physics.

"The Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt (Little Brown)  
A terrorist bomb blows apart a 13-year-old boy's world.

### **Nonfiction**

"Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East" by Scott Anderson (Doubleday)  
A biography of place viewed through some of its most enigmatic and iconic historical figures.

"Year Zero: A History of 1945" by Ian Baruma (Penguin)  
A fresh look at the aftermath of World War II challenges the traditional, heroic narrative.

"On Paper: The Everything of Its Two-Thousand Year History" by Nicholas Basbanes (Knopf)  
The most valuable, useful, pervasive invention after the wheel and before the computer.

"To the End of June: The Intimate Life of American Foster Care" by Cris Beam (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)  
When every person and social system you've trusted has let you down, can there be happy endings for anyone involved?

"The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics" by Daniel James Brown (Viking)  
Eight oarsman and their coxswain struggle to overcome the choppy waters and the hardships of the Great Depression in their pursuit of glory.

"Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital" by Sheri Fink (Crown)  
After Hurricane Katrina, systematic failures lead to morally ambiguous decisions.

"The Riddle of the Labyrinth: the Quest to Crack an Ancient Code" by Margalit Fox (Harper Collins)  
Unsung classicist Alice Kober's research provides to the key to unlock "Linear B", a 3,500 year-old language.

"On the Map: A Mind-Expanding Exploration of the Way the World Looks" by Simon Garfield (Gotham Books)  
Wherever you go, you are here.

"Johnny Cash: The Life" by Robert Hilburn (Little, Brown)  
The Man in Black in full color.

"The Skies Belong to Us: Love and Terror in the Golden Age of Hijacking" by Brendan I. Koerner (Crown)  
High-flying tale of twisted romance and seventies politics.

"Animal Wise: The Thoughts and Emotions of our Fellow Creatures" by Virginia Morell (Crown)  
No critters were harmed in the making of this book.

"Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, the Damascus Accident, and the Illusion of Safety" by Eric Schlosser (Penguin)  
An expose of dropped wrenches and lost bombs. Whoops!

"Faraway Nearby" by Rebecca Solnit (Viking)  
Apricots and Alzheimer's come together in a meditation on how lives are created and sustained through story.

### **Poetry**

"The Ogre's Wife: Poems" by Ron Koertge (Red Hen)  
Odd, eclectic and magical verse.

"Hum" by Jamaal May (Alice James)  
Detroit cityscapes resonate with the pulse of machinery and silence.

The [Reference and User Services Association](http://www.ala.org/rusa), a division of the American Library Association, represents librarians and library staff in the fields of reference, specialized reference, collection development, readers' advisory and resource sharing. RUSA is the foremost organization of reference and information professionals who make the connections between people and the information sources, services, and collection materials they need. Not a member, but interested in being part of a member community and enjoying discounted registration rates on conference, preconferences and other events? Join, renew or add RUSA to your ALA membership at [www.ala.org/membership](http://www.ala.org/membership). Learn more about the association at [www.ala.org/rusa](http://www.ala.org/rusa).