

SOURCES

very short list of “Books and Articles” and a lengthy, annotated list of “Relevant Web sites”), and a general index. Finally, the affiliation of the work’s more than two hundred contributors appears in “About the Editors and Contributors.”

The encyclopedia’s text entries reportedly range in length from one thousand to four thousand words. Although scholarly in content, the writing is deliberately aimed at the general reader. All entries are signed, and most, if not all, conclude with a short recommended-reading list. Tables, graphs, and black-and-white photos sometimes enhance the text. The work invites browsing, but its enhancements offer opportunities for in-depth usage as well. It should, therefore, appeal to a variety of readers, ranging from high school and college students to parents, and from directors of youth programs to secondary school teachers and university administrators. It will also be of interest for a variety of purposes, including policy making and report writing.

A caveat in the preface notes that although the editors “do not see activism as a topic with political valence” (xxi), they nevertheless had difficulty recruiting authors to write about conservative or right-wing youth activism—thus the “coverage ended up including substantially more entries connected to ‘progressive’ organizations and concerns compared with conservative ones” (xxi). It will be interesting to see if subsequent editions lean differently.

Although this work is not an essential purchase, it is unique in its subject matter, multidisciplinary approach, and international coverage. It is certainly a suitable addition to the collections of large public libraries and all academic libraries.—Linda J. Durfee, *Reference Librarian, Health Sciences Library, West Virginia University, Morgantown*

Professional Materials

Karen Antell

Editor

A to Zoo: Subject Access to Children’s Picture Books, 7th ed. Carolyn Lima and John Lima. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 1,728p. \$80.00 (ISBN 1-59158-232-6).

The most current *A to Zoo* is the bible of any juvenile-reference collection. Used for both routine and bizarre subject requests, children’s librarians everywhere use this resource to provide good customer service. Often catalog searches for unusual topics do not provide a viable list of books. So librarians run to the reference shelf and pull out *A to Zoo*. This reference tool is the only comprehensive resource available to search subjects for nonfiction and fiction picture books suitable for preschool to second grade.

The new seventh edition does not disappoint. Cataloged in this edition are 28,000 titles, including 5,000 titles added since the last edition, published in 2001. One hundred and fifty new subject headings have been added, in some cases

expanding existing subject headings and subheadings. For example, the subject heading Careers has expanded to include additional career subheadings such as Beekeepers and Mayors. Additional subheadings in the Behavior and Character Traits sections make it easier to search for these topical books. The larger format allows additional white space around the subject listings and makes the entries more readable.

Divided into different “Guides” and “Indexes,” *A to Zoo* is the most comprehensive subject-access guide in print for children’s picture books. The preface contains clear usage instructions. The introduction gives a brief but fairly comprehensive overview of the rise of the picture book as a genre. There is also an excellent recommended reading list by the authors.

Although always lagging behind because of print time, this reference tool is an excellent resource. Especially helpful is the inclusion of many excellent older titles that sometimes are forgotten in other resources but are still on many library shelves. Useful in large public and school library collections, *A to Zoo: Subject Access to Children’s Picture Books* is an excellent tool for researching requests from short and tall readers as well as for collection development in subject selection for large picture book collections.—Jenny Foster Stenis, *Coordinator, Children’s Services, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma*

Children’s Book Award Handbook. Diana F. Marks. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 424p. \$40.00 (ISBN 1-59158-304-7).

This is a great resource for both teachers and librarians on children’s and young adult literature awards. Marks limited her subject to book awards that have been named for an individual. From beginning to end, this book is packed with information. The first chapter includes an overview on the development of children’s book awards and two helpful charts: a timeline showing the year of each award’s inception, and a birthday chart of the awards’ namesakes, which could be used as a bulletin board in a classroom or public library. Marks provides a suggested list of activities that can be used to encourage and stimulate readers in any literature context. Each of twenty-one chapters includes an overview, biography, timeline of the namesake and a list of works if appropriate, a history of and criteria for the award, and lists of winners and honor books through 2005. Additionally, there is a list of activities specific to each award, including reproducible information for classroom units containing author information, award information, and activities to be used with children. The last chapter discusses other important book awards not named after individuals. An excellent bibliography is included, and an extensive index includes all the authors and award books listed. This excellent resource will be appreciated most by teachers and school librarians for its ease of use, but public librarians will also enjoy having information about book awards, with current award lists, in one handy source.—Jenny Foster Stenis, *Coordinator, Children’s Services, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma*