
Sources Professional Materials

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ALA Guide to Medical & Health Sciences Reference. American Library Association. Chicago: ALA, 2011. 760p. paper \$75 (ISBN: 978-0-8389-1023-8).

This compact paperback is a comprehensive, one-stop reference for librarians needing sources in the health sciences. It is the print version of the ALA Medical and Health Sciences Section's online subscription product, "Guide to Reference: Medical and Health Sciences." It will find a home at most reference desks in public, academic, and medical libraries but will be most useful to health sciences librarians. No glossary is provided, so general librarians may have to look up some terms elsewhere. Similarly, there is no legend explaining the layout and abbreviations used in each entry—it is assumed that the user is an experienced reference librarian familiar with the abbreviated style of print reference books. Although the style is attractive and readable, the page layout is slightly unconventional. Rather than print the book title on the top of each page and the page number on the bottom, the publisher has chosen to print the page numbers in the center of the left and right margins, with the book title on the left margin and the chapter title on the right. The page headers list the beginning and ending entry numbers, similar to a dictionary.

ALA Guide to Medical and Health Sciences Reference provides an annotated list of reference resources in the following areas: medicine, bioethics, consumer health, dentistry, health care, international and global health, medical jurisprudence, nursing, nutrition, pharmacology and pharmaceutical sciences, psychiatry, public health, and toxicology. Each entry is numbered (1–1,587), but there are many duplicate entries with no cross-referencing. Both print and online sources (free and subscription) are covered, and most entries are up-to-date. If a print reference book is also available as an e-book, it is indicated. Historically important reference works are also included, even if out of print.

Comparable sources include *ARBA In-Depth: Health and Medicine* (Libraries Unlimited, 2004) and *Medical and Health Care Books and Serials in Print* (Bowker, 2007), but this title is the most up-to-date of the three.—Denise Brush, *Public Services Librarian, Rowan University, Glassboro, New Jersey*.

Assistive Technologies in the Library. By Barbara T. Mates, with contributions by William R. Reed IV. Chicago: ALA, 2011. 206p. paper \$55 (ISBN: 978-0-8389-1070-2).

At a time when baby boomers are becoming senior citizens, *Assistive Technologies in the Library* is a resource brimming with practical advice and step-by-step ideas for implementing the recommended tools needed to provide patrons with the best possible access to library materials, resources, and services. With a combined 35 years of experience with the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, as well as a history of active participation in ALA's Association for Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), Mates and Reed have a firm grasp of the issues facing patrons and are well versed in the resources that may help them.

Starting with chapter 1, "The Library's Mission to Serve

RUSQ considers for review reference books and professional materials of interest to reference and user services librarians. Serials and subscription titles normally are not reviewed unless a major change in purpose, scope, format, or audience has occurred. Reviews usually are three hundred to five hundred words in length. Views expressed are those of the reviewers and do not necessarily represent those of ALA. Please refer to standard directories for publishers' addresses.

Individuals interested in reviewing professional materials should contact the "Professional Materials" editor, Karen Antell, Head of Reference and Outreach Services, Bizzell Memorial Library, University of Oklahoma, 401 West Brooks St., Room 146, Norman, OK 73019; e-mail: kantell@ou.edu.

All Patrons” (emphasis added), Mates notes that while certain technologies may be aimed at patrons with special needs, often times, patrons without such needs can also use and benefit from said technologies. For example, a large print keyboard or a so-called senior mouse can be utilized by all.

Recognizing that libraries need to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations, yet are frequently caught in the current economic crunch, many of the devices and procedures suggested by Mates and Reed are cost-effective and require only basic staff training for awareness. Mates emphasizes the importance of communicating with all library staff concerning the use of assistive technologies, reminding readers that it is not helpful for patrons to be told that staff doesn't know how to use the available resources.

Some of the recommendations are more costly to implement: JAWS (Job Access With Speech), “the most popular screen reader, is expensive” (46). Mates urges librarians to remember that if assistive technologies like JAWS are costly for libraries, they are likely beyond the personal means of many patrons who need such resources.

The timing of this reviewer's receipt of the book was fortuitous, as the library at which she works has received bequest funds to aid visually impaired patrons. The myriad resources recommended in this book helped the reviewer and her colleagues develop a wish list for the expenditure of these funds and gave them ideas for implementing no-cost and low-cost tools and technologies, including Microsoft accessibility features (50). Librarians are reminded that Friends of Libraries groups are likely supporters of requests for moderately priced assistive technologies.

Assistive Technologies in the Library is a “must have on hand” field guide for frontline librarians. It is worth reading cover to cover. However, librarians with limited time should at least review the one page synopsis, “Ten Items Libraries Should Put on the Front Burner” (165) and visit ASCLA's website to review the tip sheet. Well worth the cover price, this book is recommended for all libraries.—*Lisa Powell Williams, Adult Services Coordinator, Moline (Ill.) Public Library.*

Be a Great Boss: One Year to Success. By Catherine Hakala-Ausperk. Chicago: ALA, 2011. 215p. paper \$50 (ISBN: 978-0-8389-1068-9).

Library administration and library personnel management are topics in which librarians have long expressed interest—whether it's by taking classes as students, attending conference sessions as professionals, or reading the latest literature. *Be a Great Boss* will help satisfy this interest. Explicitly not intended to be a textbook, this workbook is part of the “ALA Guides for the Busy Librarian” series and is designed for recently hired supervisory librarians. Given the author's twenty-five years of experience as a public librarian, it is no surprise that the main intended audience is public library professionals.

The author's stated plan is for readers to complete the workbook in a year. Accordingly, there are twelve chapters in

the book—or rather, twelve “months,” if one is to borrow the author's terminology. Each month covers a different subject. Communication—with customers, employees, supervisors, trustees, and other librarians—is emphasized. Leadership, funding, and planning for the future also are highlighted. The worksheets are particularly illuminating, and the questions that are asked are similarly insightful.

One drawback is that the workbook's emphasis is wholly on public libraries, and very little mention is made about the challenges faced by people working at other types of libraries. For that reason, supervisory librarians who do not work in public libraries would be better served to take their own communities into account and consider them in place of examples used in the book. That being said, the author does provide useful general recommendations that can be applied in any type of library. Therefore, this book is definitely recommended for use by not only budding supervisors but also experienced ones as well.—*James Kennedy, Serials/Reference Librarian, Hinds Community College, Raymond, Mississippi.*

Numeric Data Services and Sources for the General Reference Librarian. By Lynda M. Kellam and Katharin Peter. Oxford: Chandos, 2011. 229p. paper \$80 (ISBN: 978-1-8433-4580-0).

Authors Lynda M. Kellam (Data Services and Government Information Librarian at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro) and Katharin Peter (Social Sciences Data Librarian at the Von KleinSmid Center Library for International and Public Affairs at the University of Southern California) have produced the first book on this new subspecialty within academic librarianship. Data librarianship has emerged from the increasing ease of online access to numerical data. Offering services in this new area requires librarians to know about both old sources (for example, U.S. Census information) and emerging sources and at times even to synthesize numerical information. The book contains an introduction to numeric data services; a list of steps for developing, implementing, and evaluating a data services reference program; perspectives on reference, instruction, and the future of numeric information services; an annotated list of sources; and a sketch of “a day in the life” of a numeric data services librarian. The book's description of the development and implementation of numeric data services would serve as a good refresher for a manager interested in developing any new library service. “A day in the life” includes interview answers from nineteen data librarians to questions such as “What is the one thing you wish you had known about being a data librarian when you started your position?” and “What would you tell a new librarian who is starting a career in data librarianship?” The comprehensiveness of the annotated list of sources is impressive. More than thirty sources are organized geographically and by compiler type (governmental or nongovernmental), and each receives a thorough and useful description. Although this book is scholarly, the writing style is imbued with fun and enthusiasm. At \$80, this excellent paperback is pricey, but libraries that