

might occur, which makes it even more important for it to be well organized, as the range of possible audiences is vast.

Here, this work meets its aim. It is clear that both a librarian and a physician are among the book's authors—the physician cognizant of the intended audience, and the librarian shaping the book's structure and organization. The book exudes a down-to-earth, readable tone; in fact, it was the authors' intent to “combine the authority of a physician with the clear, casual writing style that the layperson can easily understand” (xv).

The book is organized into six major chapters, each comprising information relating to its broad topic, such as family health or major health concerns. In essence, this work provides portals, or stepping-stones, that make it easy for readers to get started in a logical and natural way. Major points, concepts, and questions are highlighted throughout the chapters, and breaks between chapter concepts are well delineated. In addition, the table of contents is a good aid, steering readers directly to the information for which they are looking.

Chapters are well stocked with additional resources that follow important concepts. Further, the end of each chapter offers an “Ask the Experts” section, noting the appropriate type of healthcare professionals to consult for more information about chapter content. A unique feature that makes this work stand out is its glossary of experts, the purpose of which is to direct and supplement readers with access to resources to help them locate healthcare providers.

Unlike other works, such as *Answering Consumer Health Questions* (Spatz, 2008), this work leans more toward the consumer than the information professional, but it is still replete with additional resources that readers may consult on their own or with the aid of their librarian. In this sense, the work is unique; without a doubt, it will serve as a good resource for consumers, librarians, and healthcare professionals seeking a tool with which to direct their patrons as well as patients seeking healthcare information.—*Mark Hopkins, Library Technology Manager, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City*

---

***Books and Beyond: The Greenwood Encyclopedia of New American Reading.*** Ed. by Kenneth Womack. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 1292p. cloth \$399.95 (ISBN 978-0-313-33738-3).

In the United States today, the huge number of available fiction books and genres can seem overwhelming for the average reader. *Books and Beyond* is a resource for those interested in learning more about what is being published in the United States or delving deeper into a genre of fiction with which they are already familiar. Its purpose is to give an overview of the nature of contemporary American literature by providing the reader with descriptions of genres, major authors in each genre, and other relevant information. This four-volume set achieves this purpose by describing more than seventy areas, from academic fiction to zines, in a way that is both scholarly and accessible.

Each alphabetically arranged entry contains a definition of the genre; a brief history; discussions on trends, contexts,

and reception; and selected authors. Each entry ends with a bibliography of sources for further reading, and the fourth volume includes a list of contemporary authors by genre.

*Books and Beyond* compiles information about multiple genres in an uncommon way. By giving background information on each area rather than simply listing recommended authors and titles, the editor aims higher than a simple readers' advisory guide. This will be useful for readers looking to expand their knowledge of a particular genre, but, since its readers' advisory capacities are underdeveloped, this publication may be of limited usefulness. This encyclopedia could benefit from a more detailed bibliography of books from each genre to increase its utility, as well as more obvious, easier-to-see headings within each section. As it stands, the target audience and effectiveness of this set seem somewhat unclear.

This encyclopedia is appropriate for public, high school, and college libraries that have a strong interest in literary research or genre fiction.—*Katy Herrick, Library Associate, Dallas (Tex.) Public Library*

---

***Information Literacy Meets Library 2.0.*** Ed. by Peter Godwin and Jo Parker. London: Facet, 2008. 200p. cloth \$110 (ISBN 978-1-85604-637-4).

Over the last several years, numerous texts have explored Library 2.0 from a variety of angles. These treatments of emerging technology development and its attendant service philosophies tend to feature introductory explorations of dynamic tools as well as case studies outlining their practical application in specific working contexts. While the genre is replete with book-length treatments from a wide range of specializations, an underdeveloped area has been the intersection of Library 2.0 and information literacy instruction. *Information Literacy Meets Library 2.0* features the work of nineteen contributors in a series of chapters that provide a beginner-to-intermediate-level treatment of dynamic technologies and their effect on information literacy and library instruction. Geared generally toward teaching librarians and not intended exclusively for those working in academic libraries, this volume will prove most useful for those considering how dynamic technologies might be applied in virtual or physical classrooms.

*Information Literacy Meets Library 2.0* provides a wide-ranging outlook on participatory technologies and their potential to affect information literacy instruction. Its four thematic sections cover tools such as podcasting, social networking, mashups, tagging, gaming, and virtual worlds from the perspective of pedagogy, practice, and future developments in teaching technology and student literacy. Standout chapters include Brian Kelley's concise and useful introduction to the various shades of Library 2.0 and Sheila Webber's theoretical justification for including Web 2.0 technologies in library and information science education. A section of case studies showcasing successful 2.0 applications provides practical insight into how information literacy instruction might be enhanced by user-generated and collaborative applications such as Wikipedia, Flickr, and YouTube. The book draws on

## SOURCES

information literacy theory and includes contributions from the United Kingdom as well as North America, which has the effect of providing a refreshing perspective on familiar subjects.—Char Booth, *E-Learning Librarian*, University of California, Berkeley

---

### ***A Picture Book Primer: Understanding and Using Picture Books.***

By Denise I. Matulka. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2008. 307p. paper \$40 (ISBN 1-59158-441-4).

What is a picture book? Is picture book a format or a genre? In *A Picture Book Primer: Understanding and Using Picture Books*, author Denise Matulka answers these questions and many more.

After a brief historical overview, the author begins with the anatomical basics or physical aspects that make a book a picture book. The book continues by delving into the more ephemeral qualities that define a picture book, including a variety of artistic qualities and how they work together to support the whole. Matulka's knowledge of picture books allows her to analyze several well-known picture books to illustrate each of her points. Additionally, line drawing illustrations from the book *Butler and the Fly* (included as an appendix) by Megan Elizabeth Bergman are interspersed throughout the text to bring clarity to the descriptions of artistic terms and the discussion about "reading images" and visual literacy. This book includes many references, enabling readers to further pursue topics of particular interest.

Of special interest is the chapter "Development, Literacy and Picture Books." The author discusses child development and the place of picture books in the development of emergent and visual literacy. In the chapter "Format or Genre?" Matulka discusses the differences between these terms and sheds light on some murky territory. The chapter "Picture Book Issues" gives a succinct summation of issues (including censorship) throughout many decades in the development of picture books. This chapter provides comprehensive information and highlights points for thoughtful discussion. Matulka finishes the book with practical strategies for evaluating picture books and building collections.

Additional helpful features of this book are the extended historical timeline and the glossary included in the appendixes. A supporting resource to use along with the book is the author's website, [www.picturingbooks.com](http://www.picturingbooks.com). By clicking on the "Interactive" button, one can find interactive visuals to complement the chapters in the book. Especially helpful are the pages that cover the picture books mentioned, illustrating art media, style, design elements, and the "topography" of the picture book.

Matulka's straightforward approach and easy tone make this book accessible and appealing to anyone interested in picture books, including librarians, teachers, and aspiring picture book writers. This book would be an excellent supplement for children's literature classes.—Jenny Foster Stenis, *Coordinator, Children's Services, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma*

---

***Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries.*** 7th edition. Ed. by Jack O'Gorman. Chicago: ALA, 2008. 329p. paper \$80 (ISBN 0-8389-0943-4).

Many librarians became acquainted with *Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries* during their master's degree studies or early in their careers. Now in its seventh edition, this book retains its original purpose as a buying guide and collection development tool for reference sources. Substantial editing and updating reflect changes in reference publishing and the nature of reference itself. The sixteen chapter contributors represent a wide range of subject areas and different types of libraries.

This edition contains almost seventeen hundred annotated entries, a reduction from more than two thousand entries in the sixth edition. Each entry provides a concise description of the source, and many include evaluative comments. Entries do not appear to follow a set writing style or format. Reminiscent of newspaper and magazine restaurant ratings, entries for reference books include one to four dollar signs to indicate a title's price range.

The book is arranged in twenty topical chapters, each divided further by type of source and subtopic. An author-title index provides straightforward access to entries for known sources; the chapter arrangement and table of contents provide systematic access by subject. When consulting this source, one should bear in mind that there could be additional sources on a subject that were excluded but that might be worthy of consideration for a particular collection. Users may wish to consult this book in conjunction with other sources.

This guide is particularly useful for small collections and libraries, where money and time for collection development are often limited. It also can be valuable in teaching reference sources to LIS students, especially considering the number of graduates who go on to work in small- or medium-sized libraries. Specialists in some subjects may perceive errors and deficiencies in a few entries, but occasional imperfections are excusable in such a large undertaking. Overall, O'Gorman and his colleagues have done an admirable job of producing a practical source that lives up to the reputation of previous editions.

After almost forty years, *Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries* remains a standard tool for collection development. It is recommended especially for small- and medium-sized public and academic libraries, and for collections that support library and information science programs.—Anthony Stamatoplos, *Associate Librarian, University Library, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Indiana*

---

### ***Transforming Library Service through Information Commons: Case Studies for the Digital Age.***

D. Russel Bailey and Barbara Dunter Tierney. Chicago: ALA, 2008. 155p. paper \$55 (ISBN 978-0-8389-0958-4; 0-8389-0958-2).

The focus of *Transforming Library Service through Information Commons* is to explore, mainly through the examples of