

A user-friendly source, *Less Is More* helps the reader understand the necessary role of weeding in a school library by offering general weeding guidelines. Additionally, the authors describe various weeding models found in previous published manuals on the subject. Librarians also will benefit from the chapter on automation and its helpful impact on weeding. Sidebars, quotes, checklists, and comical lists of titles that should be weeded keep this book's tone light and right for busy school library media center personnel.

The backbone of this publication, however, is found in chapter 4, in which the authors present weeding topics in Dewey number order. Each topic includes a rationale for weeding, Dewey numbers to check, specific criteria for the topic, tips for replacing titles, and lists of titles to consider when weeding. Nonfiction, fiction, and reference books all are covered in this indispensable portion of the book.

Less Is More: A Practical Guide to Weeding School Library Collections is an accessible, practical, easy-to-read resource for busy school library professionals. Collection development educators would do well to avail themselves of the useful examples found in this volume.—*Laverne Simoneaux, School Library Media Center Director, University Terrace Elementary School, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

Read the High Country: Guide to Western Books and Films. John Mort. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 508p. \$60 (ISBN 1-59158-134-6).

John Mort's latest title is the usual informative fare from Libraries Unlimited: a guide for readers' advisors and for selection librarians in a specific genre. Mort lists four other titles (xiv) that treat Westerns in some capacity, the primary one being Dale Walker's *What Western Do I Read Next?* (Gale, 1998). Obviously, this title is already becoming outdated, and the need for a new title is evident.

For anyone not familiar with the Western, *Read the High Country* is a treasure trove, informing not only about the genre in books and film but also about the history of the American West. In fact, Mort includes in the appendix a "Western Time Line," from 28,000 BC to 1929 AD. One category in the "Traditional Westerns" section is "The Business of the West," revealing the importance of buffalo, railways, and mining to the commercial health of the American West. And, given the importance of the Native American in this time and place, the book is a great source for titles involving First Nations.

The reader will be amazed to see some of the authors included here. In his introductory "Short History of the Western," Mort cites such writers as James Fenimore Cooper, Mark Twain, and Bret Harte. He includes in the "Traditional Westerns" section annotations for Jack London, Paulette Jiles, and Cormac McCarthy, authors one does not normally associate with writers like Max Brand and Zane Grey.

The look at "Nontraditional Westerns" reflects the great changes that have occurred in the Western genre in the latter part of the twentieth century and into the current century. The categories are "The Contemporary West," "Contemporary

Western Mysteries," "Western Romances," "Short Stories," and "Young Adult," and they cover such authors as Barbara Kingsolver, E. Annie Proulx, and Kent Haruf. Cross-blending has become an integral part of this genre.

In the annotations, Mort provides icons to indicate whether the title is woman-friendly, suitable for young adults, Christian-themed, or considered a classic. He indicates setting and time, which are also reflected in the Settings index, and if the book is of exceptional note, an asterisk appears beside the title.

With a conversational tone, Mort wonderfully succeeds in guiding the readers' advisor to a much greater knowledge and understanding of the Western book and film. This book is likely to attract an entirely new readership to the genre.—*Maureen O'Connor, Public Services Librarian, Brampton Library, Ontario*

Recommended Reference Books for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries and Media Centers. Shannon Graff Hysell, ed. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 376p. \$70 (ISBN 1-59158-380-2).

Recognizing that the *American Reference Books Annual* (ARBA) includes many entries for works irrelevant to smaller libraries, the editors have designed this title to "assist smaller libraries in the systematic selection of suitable reference materials for their collections" (xi). By reducing the number of entries from the more than 1,500 included in ARBA to a more manageable 554, they have created a work that should prove of value to many smaller libraries.

Each of the entries is taken directly from ARBA, which in turn takes most of its entries from review journals. Thus, there is little in the way of original material outside of the introduction. The entries are divided into thirty-seven chapters, each conveniently divided into four major categories: general works, social sciences, humanities, and science and technology. Both the categories and their subdivisions work well in allowing users easily to locate materials relevant to the topic for which they are searching. In addition to the breakdown in the table of contents, there is an author/title index and a subject index at the back of the book, enabling easy access.

Included at the beginning of each entry is a designation indicating where this material might prove useful—at a college, public, or school library. In many cases, titles are recommended for more than one type of institution. The entries themselves are quite thorough, ranging from about two hundred to five hundred words in length, and they tend to be very descriptive. Bibliographic information is included for each entry, and the journal citation is included where applicable.

Those using this book should exercise some judgment when it comes to the currency of included titles. For example, the 2005 *Official Major League Baseball Fact Book* will clearly be outdated by the time the review is included in such a publication. However, a librarian should be able to conclude that perhaps the 2007 edition would still be a worthwhile purchase, given that the authority and value of the title are