chapter—unusual because the topic is penetrated with a comprehension rare to these ephemeral yet vital sources. Tips to the would-be compilers/authors of these catalogs are of an astute nature and reveal a mind experienced in such matters.

One could certainly quibble with the selective chapter on famous libraries and research centers, which ignores institutions as potent as the Museum of Modern Art Library (the M.O.M.A. library catalog is discussed at length in a previous section). Despite these lacunae, the guide is a highly functional and necessary tool.—Lamia Doumato, University of Colorado, Boulder.


This textbook on literature searching is intended to “sensitize students to the information process and to develop attitudes toward the utilization of sources.” It is written for third-year students—at the point in their careers where they have a definite need to search the literature of their specialized field.

This text could also be used by the scientist as a quick review of literature search techniques. The book succeeds in its purpose: “to inculcate in the user skills, techniques, and attitudes which will facilitate user interaction with information systems.” The field of the environmental sciences is employed as a basis for the examples.

The book is concise, covering nine basic chapters in only eighty-nine pages. These chapters include research literature and the search strategy, library basics, topic selection, the subject catalog, retrieving books, indexes and abstracts, locating serials, reference materials, and organizing the bibliography. It also has a “Glossary of Terms” and an index.

The first chapter, “Research Literature and the Search Strategy,” guides researchers in helping themselves yet reminds them to use the librarian when necessary. Primary, secondary, and tertiary sources are defined, but these definitions need expanding if the text is used outside the field of environmental sciences.

Although “Topic Selection” is the title of chapter 3, this concept permeates much of the rest of the book, where the authors stress the continual refining of the search, and/or the question.

“Computerized searches and current awareness services” are mentioned but briefly on pages 54–55. This will be a fruitful area for expansion in a later revision of the text.

On page 67 the authors emphasize interlibrary loans, both as a system and as a service, and point out some of the system’s rules and limitations.

For students beginning their own extensive subject searches, this text serves as an excellent guide. Although not written as a library science text, it capably presents the librarian’s view of “literature search strategies.” I have taught such a course this year and would have been grateful to have had such a text.—Deanne Holzberlein, Principia College, Elsah, Illinois.

CORRECTION

In the review of the anthology Library Services to the Blind and Physically Handicapped, in the May 1978 issue, p.229–30, the article “The World Will Never Be So Small Again” by Robert Russell is described. This article was originally published in the Wilson Library Bulletin for November 1971.

ABSTRACTS

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