Finally, I know it is difficult to decide where to stop with this type of book, but I think that topics like violence and, especially, domestic violence, which the American Medical Association has declared to be of great medical significance, should have been included. It is a topic for which sources of information or assistance could be urgently needed.

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Grey House Publishing adds another fine directory to its health care reference library. The Complete Directory for People with Chronic Illness covers eighty-two chronic illnesses, such as agent orange-related injuries, and lyme disease, with each chapter covering one illness. The editor briefly introduces the chronic illnesses at the beginning of each chapter. National agencies and associations, state agencies and associations, books, children’s books, magazines, government agencies, newsletters, pamphlets, libraries and resource centers, research centers, support groups, hotlines, and videos follow the introduction. In the agencies-and-associations section, the title, address, phone number, and description of the association or agency provide beneficial information. The libraries-and-resource-centers section reports addresses, phone numbers, and services available. The book section shows the title, address, and phone number of the publisher, number of pages, cost of the book, and ISBN. Book description are advantageous. Magazine and newsletter entries note the titles, publishers, phone numbers, and descriptions. Support group and hotlines include address, phone number, and descriptions. Video entries contain title, address, phone number, description, and, occasionally, price. The directory also includes general resources, twenty different wish foundations, and a death-and-bereavement section.

The directory is available as a mailing list and in a computerized version in MS-DOS or ASCII formats, compatible with most computer database software. Following the index is a list of current directories from Grey House Publishing. These six directory entries include a brief contents statement and an ISBN. A free listing form encourages the addition of new listings or the updating of existing ones. The publisher provides a convenient 800 fax number for updates.

What other publications compare to The Complete Directory for People with Chronic Illness? That is a difficult question to answer. Because the information in the directory encompasses four diverse areas—associations, publications, research centers, and support groups—several sources, such as the Encyclopedia of Associations [1], Research Centers Directory [2], Resources for People with Disabilities and Chronic Conditions [3], and The Self-Help Directory [4] were reviewed for comparison. The Encyclopedia of Associations organizes information according to categories. The health-and-medical-organizations section comprises 286 pages, including names, addresses, phone numbers, and descriptions. Research Centers Directory includes different areas of research throughout the United States by category. Two sections incorporate the medical and health sciences and the behavioral and social sciences, totaling 413 pages. The name, address, phone number, and description format carry throughout this directory. The Resources for People with Disabilities and Chronic Conditions seems the closest source of comparison. This 215-page source contains chapters discussing disabilities such as hearing disorders, speech disorders, diabetes, epilepsy, low back pain, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, visual impairment, and blindness. This book also lists organizations with addresses and phone numbers, publications, and tapes. The Complete Directory for People with Chronic Illness includes all these subject categories, with the exception of low back pain and speech disorders.

Most often, support group information limits itself by geographic boundaries and chronological age. The self-help group information focuses on a state-by-state basis. Currency presents a problem with support group literature. Information quickly becomes out of date. However, The Self-Help Directory makes all of the previous statements concerning support group publications untrue. Organized alphabetically, The Self-Help Directory collects 600 entries of American and Canadian self-help groups. Information on the purpose of each organization, services, up-to-date telephone numbers, and mailing addresses merit The Self-Help Directory (totaling 176 pages) consideration as a source for information on alcoholism, drug abuse, eating disorders, blindness, deafness, physical disabilities, and bereavement. The Complete Directory of Chronic Illness offers many listings of support group addresses, phone numbers, and 800-number hotlines nationwide.

Index arrangements vary among the directories. In The Complete Directory of Chronic Illness, the entry index assigns entries alphabetically and by publisher. The publishers are easily identifiable by bold-

Some flaws exist in The Complete Directory for People with Chronic Illness. An occasional missing phone number causes one to seek other information sources. The addition of copyright dates would help in the decision to acquire any particular book, pamphlet, or video.

The strong points of The Complete Directory for People with Chronic Illness are the comprehensiveness of the resources and the services. The Complete Directory for People with Chronic Illness covers eighty-two chronic illnesses, seventy-three more than Resources for People with Disabilities and Chronic Conditions. The Complete Directory for People with Chronic Illness unites much of the information represented in three different directories: Encyclopedia of Associations, Research Centers Directory, and The Self-Help Directory. The directory includes pamphlets, support groups, hotlines, and videos not always easily identifiable from other sources. Bullets and boldface text accentuate the entries. The cost and space effectiveness of purchasing a single rather than multiple directories is obvious. This directory is important for people with chronic illness, their families, health care personnel, and librarians and fits in health care collections of hospitals and health center libraries.

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References


"The Guide to Technical Services Resources is a first attempt at a comprehensive and practical guide to the principal information resources for technical services practitioners, educators, and students" (p. 1). It was inspired by, patterned in organization and design after, and is intended as a technical services counterpart to the American Library Association's (ALA) Guide to Reference Books [1]. Although the editor quickly acknowledges "no pretense to the scholarly depth that characterizes the Guide to Reference Books" (p. 1), the expertise of the twelve chapter editors and thirteen advisors, widely recognized technical services authorities and practitioners, is a valid indicator of the quality achieved in this guide. Among the chapter editors and advisors are Sheila S. Intner, Karen A. Schmidt, Janet Swan Hill, Marcia L. Tuttle, Peggy Johnson, Barry B. Baker, Doris H. Clack, and Karen M. Drabenstott.

The twelve chapters represent the more common functional areas found in technical services operations: technical services (an overview), acquisitions, descriptive cataloging, subject analysis systems, authority control, filing and indexing, serials management, collection management, preservation, reproduction of library materials, database management, and access services. The primary focus is "technical services as practiced in North American libraries" (p. 2). Chapters vary in length and types of materials and tools selected for several reasons: the individual nature of the field, the relative age and clarity of the field within technical services, current activity or interest levels in the field, and the selection process of each chapter editor.

In general, each chapter begins with an overview to define the subject, outline current issues and challenges, and explain the specific chapter content and organization. Whenever feasible, resources are grouped into categories such as general works; textbooks; guides and manuals; directories; bibliographies; periodicals; and sources of expertise, including professional associations, conferences, and electronic discussion groups. A subsection covering management, work flow, and staffing issues is also included in most chapters. Whenever a chapter covers a field where standards play an important role, as in descriptive cataloging or database management, information resources on the standards and their practical application are well represented. All entries are annotated. Cross-referencing of resources between chapters emphasizes the interrelationships among many of the areas. The volume includes extensive author/title and subject indexes (fifty-eight pages), as well as a glossary of commonly occurring technical services acronyms.

It is obvious that the chapters have been compiled by practical experts who can synthesize a state-of-the-art overview of their area as well as provide details on specific tools and information resources.

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