of the references are drawn from the literature of health sciences librarianship (especially Bulletin of the Medical Library Association and Medical Reference Services Quarterly), relevant journal articles and monographs are also cited from the general library and information science, computing, and medical literature. Mid-1992 appears to be the cutoff point for most chapter bibliographies; references to the 1993 Medical Subject Headings and the 1993 Brandon/Hill list are the only exceptions. In many instances, the book will prove useful as a reference work, offering guidance in learning basic concepts and solving problems.

Finally, the book does document the state of practice of health sciences librarianship at a particular point in time. As noted above, the book reflects trends in reference and information services that emerged in the late 1980s and early 1990s: end-user searching, the Internet, and electronic publishing. But, due to the time lag in creating such a printed monograph, other topics, such as the emerging importance of Internet navigational tools (and the possible roles for librarians in their creation and maintenance) are absent—WAIS is mentioned but not Gopher or Mosaic. The profession's increasing concern with ethical issues also receives relatively little attention, with brief discussions in the sections on consumer health information programs, fee-based services, and search services. "Concerns about authenticity and integrity" are briefly noted in the context of electronic publishing (p. 320), although this is an issue that reference librarians must confront in using electronic resources. In contrast, discussions of evaluation techniques appear throughout the volume.

In summary, this first volume is a worthy successor to prior editions of the Handbook. It will be valuable to students of health sciences librarianship, to practicing librarians seeking an overview of health sciences reference services or solutions to specific problems, and to reference librarians in other fields who can learn from the innovative applications of technology in health sciences libraries.

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References


The third edition of this standard guide to the reference literature of the health sciences continues the excellent tradition of the previous editions. The authors' intention remains the same: "to discuss various types of reference and information sources and their use in reference work in the health sciences" (p. ix). This goal is admirably met through the discussion of issues (in some chapters) and sources (in all chapters) related to reference collection development (part 1), bibliographic sources (part 2), and information sources (part 3). Two chapters (chapter 5, "Electronic Bibliographic Databases," and chapter 11, "Audiovisual, Microcomputer and Multimedia Reference Sources") have been renamed and expanded to reflect changes in practice. No other source covers the health sciences reference literature of North America, and the publication of a new edition should be welcomed not only by instructors of health sciences courses, who now have a current textbook, but by librarians new to the health sciences and by experienced practitioners, who now have an excellent guide to the literature.

One problem with collaborative works (in this case, there are ten contributors) is inconsistency. This definitely is not the case here, where all chapters are well organized and very readable. The format of the book remains the same, with a general overview of "Organization and Management of the Reference Collection" comprising part 1. This chapter has been updated and expanded to include a lengthier discussion of electronic formats. While the discussion is not exhaustive, it is timely and considered and serves as an excellent introduction to reference collection issues all health sciences librarians need to address in their own libraries.

Parts 2 and 3 consist of chapters covering specific types of reference material: bibliographic sources for monographs and periodicals, indexing and abstracting services; electronic databases; government documents; and conferences, reviews, and translations in part 2, and terminology, handbooks and manuals, drug sources, nonprint sources, statistics, directories and biographic sources, history sources, and grant sources in part 3. Emphasis is on U.S. sources,
but the authors made an effort to include Canadian sources as well.

Part 2 includes several chapters covering bibliographic sources. The revisions to these chapters concern updated material on electronic databases (e.g., OCLC, RLIN) and services (e.g., DOCLINE). Chapter 5 ("Electronic Bibliographic Databases") provides the reader with an excellent overview of databases relevant to the health sciences, with an appropriate emphasis on National Library of Medicine databases.

Information sources are discussed in the chapters of part 3. Two chapters are exceptionally well done. Diane Futrelle and James Curtis' chapter on "Audiovisual, Microcomputer, and Multimedia Reference Sources" has been expanded to reflect the increasing importance of the nonprint collection in health sciences libraries, particularly in academic environments. Included is a discussion of reference and collection development issues related to learning resource centers that complements the coverage of specific reference tools. Frieda Weise and Judith Johnson's chapter on "Medical and Health Statistics" is an outstanding overview of a notoriously difficult area of health sciences reference. The scope of this chapter is more comprehensive than others (for instance, it includes a glossary of terms), certainly warranted in this subject area.

Guides to the literature of the sciences frequently neglect historical sources, so it was good to see the recognized importance of the historical context in medical bibliography as reflected by the continued inclusion of historical sources in this new edition. Although these sources may fall only within the scope of research libraries, knowledge of their existence should be required of all health sciences librarians.

The only omission noted was a discussion of the Internet. Although a comprehensive treatment would not have been appropriate, a chapter describing the rapidly increasing use of Internet resources in health sciences libraries would have been timely. The Internet has become a major communication and information source, and the single mention of it was disappointing in a 1994 book.

In summary, this new edition of what has become the standard guide to the health sciences literature in North America should be included in all health sciences collections. It will serve as an excellent introduction and overview to the field for library science students and practicing librarians alike.

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Library Without Walls is a softcover book that is tightly packed with scads of information on every important aspect of the electronic library. Its sixteen chapters cover both the low and high ground, from subscribing to basic online bibliographic utilities to becoming a "cybarian."

The chapters, each by different authors, are organized into ten sections. The first two sections, "Electronic Reference" and "Obtaining the Document," cover the very basics of electronic library services, such as online reference tools, full-text databases, document delivery, and the use of online utilities such as OCLC and RLIN.

In the third section, the book kicks into a higher gear. "Creating the True Electronic Library—LANs and the Internet" discusses how to plan an electronic network and explains the Internet from both technical and conceptual perspectives. An excellent chart outlines the different types of network cabling and their capabilities. An up-to-date networking glossary and some very useful sample handouts on BITNET and listservs are provided.

Section 4, "The True Electronic Journal," offers a brief discussion on that topic, while section 5 moves into expert systems and the role of librarians in developing hypertext software. Section 6, "Electronic Gear," discusses CD-ROMs; the basics of fax, e-mail, and video conferencing; and Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML): software/hardware-independent publishing.

"Imaging Systems" constitutes section 7. Its two chapters explain optical character recognition, CD-ROMs, the World Wide Web, and other aspects of imaging and related communication technologies.

The pace changes with the eighth section, which is a chapter on staff training for the electronic library. Section 9 is dedicated to marketing the electronic library and includes an excellent chapter on broad marketing concepts. There is also a dialog on reinventing the profession and a chapter on providing services outside the library, mostly through selective dissemination of information (SDI) services.

The tenth and final section is a case study of an electronic library,