Book Review


Are you a student about to conduct research in library or information science? Are you an instructor in such a program looking for research methodology curriculum-supporting text material? If you answered yes to either of the above questions, this volume will definitely interest you. Librarians collecting for library and information science collections generally will want to consider purchase. The volume is a rather neatly sized and bound volume. But, undoubtedly to conserve pages, the publisher has used rather clear but small-sized type which will give some readers much unhappiness, this reviewer included. For the price it would seem this could have been corrected. Otherwise information content for the price is satisfactory.

The volume is organized in four parts. The first discusses bibliometrics, citation indexes and online retrieval as recent changes affecting literature searching. This should be obvious to non-lay readers! The second presents some search strategy models. The third part is the meat of the volume presenting information sources by form of material. The fourth presents types of information sources for the remaining purchase value. To quote from the introduction to part 3: “The purpose of part 3 is to provide a list of indexes, data bases, and bibliographies that covers the various forms of materials; for example, research studies, periodicals, books, and government publications.” Similarly, the introduction to part 4 states: “The purpose of part 4 is to provide the user with a selected list and description of titles of the following types of information sources and services in the field of library and information science: (1) guides to information sources; (2) indexing, abstracting and data base services; (3) annuals and other serials; (4) reviewing sources; and (5) bibliographies.”

Aside from a classic radio announcer type blooper in reference 3 on page 21, the text is well edited, proofread, concisely written and well laden with content. On page 117 in their Summary and Epilogue the authors have given their four purposes for writing this work. To quote, “(1) to alert library and information science scholars to new developments that affect search strategy; (2) to offer examples of steps in the search process that assist an individual in conducting economical, systematic searches; (3) to provide a listing of information sources by form; and (4) to provide a listing of information sources by type of work”. The authors have succeeded in this; however, this reviewer hopes that any subsequent
editions of this work will present larger typography and less eyestrain for the reader!

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