Publisher's Profile: Infosources Publishing

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Blackwell North America

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INFOSOURCES PUBLISHING, 140 Norma Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666, (201)836-7072 phone or fax

Infosources Publishing was founded in 1981 by Arlene L. Eis, a law librarian with an MLS from Columbia University School of Library Service. The first title published in 1981, and annually every year thereafter, was Legal Looseleafs in Print. As a librarian at a law firm, Ms. Eis was constantly being asked if there was a looseleaf on a particular topic of law. Surprisingly, there was no bibliography of looseleaves, and they were not covered thoroughly in any bibliography available at the time. It was obvious that a compilation was needed, and Legal Looseleafs in Print was the answer to fill this void in the legal bibliography. The first edition listed 1,380 titles. Currently, 14 editions later, there are 3,500+ looseleaves listed.

As a companion volume to Legal Looseleafs, Legal Newsletters in Print was begun as an annual publication in 1985. It offers much detail on all law-related newsletters and reporters, which numbered about 2,200 in 1994. The book has wonderful indexes, such as an index of newsletters registered with the CCC, and an index of newsletters that are online, by database.

Another title from Infosources is The Legal Researcher's Desk Reference which is published biennially. It is a handy one-volume deskbook with lots of information referred to daily by a legal researcher all in one place. This book is also found in many public and college libraries and is a favorite among law librarians.

The Informed Librarian: Professional Reading For The Information Professional is a monthly current awareness service published by Infosources. It reproduces tables of contents from 130+ library and information-related journals and newsletters. Against the Grain can be found in The Informed Librarian. The Informed Librarian has offered the library professional an inexpensive, concise, and quick and easy way to keep up with the library literature. An Article Delivery Service is also offered, as are tables of contents of important new books in the field.

In 1993 Infosources first published the Directory of Law-Related CD-ROMs which offered full and detailed entries on 240 CD-ROMs then available. To keep up with the fast-growing field, subscribers to the book can receive Law-Related CD-ROM Update, a quarterly newsletter that lists all the new law-related CD-ROMs that have come out. The 1995 edition of the Directory lists over 700 CD-ROM products.

All of the aforementioned titles are compiled and edited by Arlene Eis.

Infosources' newest book, published in February 1995, is The Internet Guide for the Legal Researcher, written by Don MacLeod. This is a much-needed title, which explains how to locate and retrieve free and fee-based legal information on the Internet. Since the WWW exploded since this came out, there was a July update which discusses how to use Netscape and a lot of WWW sites of interest and there will be another update in early November. ($56, prepaid, and 2 updates are $39 total)

As you can see, Infosources is primarily a publisher of legal reference materials and bibliography/directories, and in a more general sense an information publisher offering helpful tools to librarians. In every edition, they try to enhance the information offered, and to offer more access points via additional indexes, etc. All the information included in Infosources' directories is thoroughly checked for accuracy and reliability. Infosources also offers free telephone consultation to subscribers on any questions related to the materials covered in their books. For example, a subscriber may call to find out if Infosources has heard of a new newsletter, or knows of a CD-ROM on a particular new area of law. As a former law librarian, Ms. Eis has an excellent understanding of the work law librarians do, and of the tools they need. As a small, woman-owned business, Infosources offers excellent, prompt, and personalized service.

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