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From the Reference Desk

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and digitised back files of the journal — making them freely available via MetaPress.

**ATG:** Tell us about the UK library and publishing markets? Are eBooks taking off in the UK?

You ask about the UK library market and the UK publishing industry. I think that UK academic libraries, on the whole, are in good shape. Of course we don’t have huge budget increases but on the other hand we have introduced a level of stability and many have got out of the cycle of annual cancellations which was so depressing. The main reason for that has been the national e-journal negotiation undertaken by JISC via the NESLZZ initiative and other national and regionally negotiated deals for e-databases and eBooks. As far as eBooks are concerned, take-up has been slow and this is probably due to the fact that publishers have struggled to find appropriate business models which appeal to libraries. That is beginning to change which is encouraging.

We also have a vibrant research and development environment — once again funded by the government via JISC. For example, a £10 million call has gone out recently for digitisation projects for important and unique research collections in UK libraries.

**ATG:** Will we have libraries in the future? What predictions would you make about scholarly publishing/communication over the next, say, ten years?

I don’t think I have anything particularly profound to say about the future except that libraries and publishers will almost certainly find themselves responding more and more to the activities of information giants such as Google, Microsoft and Yahoo. Libraries will increasingly need to tailor their services to their students and staff to provide focused, individual and relevant support for their learning, teaching and research. Peer review — possibly not in its traditional guise — will continue to be of paramount importance in a research world where quality is crucial.

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grounding.

As editor Warf notes, the advent of geographic information systems (GIS) offers scholars a new tool superseding the mathematical modeling once dominant and engenders a new excitement within the field. This excitement is reflected in the Encyclopedia. Coverage is diverse and multidisciplinary portraying the integration of human geography with the other social sciences. There are over 300 articles that delve into broad areas ranging from cartography and GIS systems to urban geography, and from geographic theory to political social and cultural geography. As such there are articles that discuss the spatial contexts of disparate issues like class war, sovereignty, crime, historic preservation, gender, segregation, environmental justice, globalization and cyberspace. There are also entries devoted to the development of the discipline like those on the Berkeley and Chicago Schools, Positivism and the Quantitative Revolution, as well as the impacts of Marxism, Humanistic Geography, Feminism, Postmodernism and Post structuralism. While each entry has a list of suggested readings, generally these bibliographies are brief. Given the growth of the field, any future edition should enhance this aspect of the Encyclopedia.

The Encyclopedia of Human Geography provides a scholarly and intellectually challenging overview of the topic, as well as specific explanations of the linkage between geography and social, economic, and political issues. Larger academic libraries that support classes in geography will want to add it to their list. Libraries looking for a shorter, less expensive treatment should consider Greenwood’s Encyclopedia of Human Geography (2004, 0313320101, $59.95).

Another encyclopedia that lends definition to a growing area of scholarly research is Greenwood’s Our Earth’s Changing Land: an Encyclopedia of Land-Use and Land Cover Change (2006, 0313327041, $225). Edited by Helmut Geist, this two-volume set is a product of Land-Use/Cover Change project initiated through programs sponsored by the International Council of Scientific Unions. Operating from 1995 through 2005 the LUC project helped define the differences, as well as the linkages, between land cover, “the biophysical state of the earth’s surface” and land use, “the manner in which biophysical attributes of land are manipulated.” The Encyclopedia presents the “crucial terms and topics” resulting from this research in more than 300 entries.

However, editor Geist wisely starts the first volume with three helpful introductory essays. Entitled “Land Change as a Forcing Function in Global Environments,” “Land Use Change in a Global Historical Perspective,” and “Land Cover Change,” these essays provide the foundation for the rest of the encyclopedia. They are well worth reading and reference related articles within the rest of the text. The individual entries fall within broad categories and treat types of land change ranging from cropland to forest and from urban-industrial to rangeland. Other articles cover specific causes and impacts of land change, as well as aspects of land use dynamics and land cover conversion and modification. There are also articles discussing individual countries and regions, specific conventions and environmental agreements and analytical techniques like modeling and satellite imagery methods. Most of these articles range from 1,000 to 2,500 words although shorter entries often describe influential organizations or offer the brief biographical sketches that are contained in the Encyclopedia. Aside from a general index there is a useful guide to related topics by category and an alphabetical list of entries. There are numerous “see also” references at the end of each entry, as well as references to related articles by the use of bold type within the text.

Although primarily intended as a reference work, Our Earth’s Changing Land: an Encyclopedia of Land-Use and Land Cover Change is another work that could be placed in either reference or circulation collections. It addresses topics of increasing interest and importance in a timely and thorough fashion. Informed by recent scholarship, this work should answer specific questions, as well as provide stimulation for further inquiry. While it is most appropriate for academic libraries, larger public libraries with patrons interested in these issues would do well to consider it.

Sports are big business with an ever expanding growth potential. A quick look though Grey House Publishing’s 2006 Sports Market Place Directory (2006, 1592371396, $225) makes this obvious. Packed into this bulky paperback and its 2,294 pages are some 15,487 listings, (up 2,173 from 2005). In addition, there are 13,883 Websites (up 2,561), 8961 email addresses (up 3,334), and listings for 58,898 key executives (up 22,283). In order to manage all this information, the Directory is divided into ten chapters with each chapter having its own index. The first chapter covers professional sports leagues and other single sport organizations while chapter two lists multi-sport organizations like those devoted to disabled sports, youth sports and the Olympics. The third chapter deals with college sports, both NAIA and NCAA. The remaining seven chapters cover events, meetings and trade shows, the media, sports sponsors, professional services, facilities, manufacturers, and statistics. In short, the 2006 Sports Market Place Directory provides a single source for the address, contacts and description of the Arena Football League, as well as for the US Olympic Education Center, the New York City Marathon, the Golf Channel, the Saratoga Race Course and Jantzen, Inc. In addition, there are statistics on topics ranging from female sports participation to fitness equipment purchases to NCAA attendance figures. Fortunately, given all this diverse content, the Directory is well organized and arranged for ease of use. Beside the indexes for each chapter, there are cumulative entry, executive and geographic indexes. Convenient fold out tabs identify each chapter and provide “finger tip” access.

Public libraries where there is demand for such information and academic libraries supporting sports management curriculum will want to consider this resource. Those libraries where there is a great deal of use for such information will want to consider the online version, annual subscription $479.00, or the online database & directory combination, annual subscription $650. For more information on these options check out http://www.greyhouse.com/sports.htm.

Both science librarians and chemistry faculty and students will be glad to know a new edition of the Merck Index (2006, 091191000X, $125) is available. Now in its 14th edition this indispensable standard should find a home on both library and personal books shelves. This edition contains 10,200 “monographs” that discuss “significant chemicals, drugs, and biochemical substances,” according to the editors. Over 5,000 of these monographs have been “significantly revised and updated.” And while more than 500 monographs have been combined or deleted in this print volume, there is an accompanying CD-ROM that archives them, as well as those combined or deleted from the 12th edition. Each entry has the title of the compound, its Chemical Abstracts registry number and name, alternative names or trademarks, the molecular formula and weight, the percentage of composition and other chemical information including literature references. In addition each entry has structural diagrams, physical data for the compound, derivative compound, use and therapeutic category. A section of organic name reactions lists those chemical reactions that have “come to be recognized and referred to by name within the chemistry community.” In addition, there is a list of chemical abstract registry numbers, as well as finding aids including the therapeutic category and biological index, the formula index and the name index. There is also a series of supplemental resources continued on page 51
ranging from a glossary and a chemical terms translator to a list of universal conversion factors and a table of minerals.

In short, the Merck Index is a definite addition for any library collection where this type of information is in demand. Those interested in the online version can visit http://www.merckbooks.com/mindex/online.html.

Below is a guest review of ABC-CLIO’s: The Crusades: an Encyclopedia edited by Alan V. Murray. The review is by Jared A. Sex, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston.

The 11th century summons of Pope Urban II to the knights of Europe to “liberate” their fellow Christians in the Holy Land began a religion fueled struggle of which the current conflict in the Middle East is an enduring descendant. Edited by Alan V. Murray, The Crusades: an Encyclopedia (2006, 15760678520, $385) is the first major reference work of its kind and size to cover “the most influential religious movements of the Middle Ages.” This four volume set published by ABC-CLIO encompasses the entire “crusade movement from its beginnings in the 11th century through the early modern period, including crusades to the Holy Land, Iberia, Greece, Eastern Europe, the Baltic region, and elsewhere.” Indeed, what struck me while reading through the well written, detailed entries of these volumes was how the idea of “crusade” was by no means restricted to the liberation of the Holy Land or to even to non-Christians. Though initially called by Pope Urban II in 1095 to free the Holy Land of infidels, crusade — the idea of going to war to eradicate heretics and/or infidels — was increasingly summoned by kings and popes in every corner of Christendom. Crusades were called against other Christians with most of the major wars for the next 500 years started by those in power to stamp out perceived heresies (even the Norman conquest of England in 1066 was under a papal banner).

The Crusades: an Encyclopedia is comprehensive in its approach and covers many concepts, terms, details and matters related to the idea of crusade in medieval thought. The first volume contains a chronology of the crusades, a “Principle Narrative and Legal Sources for the Crusades” and a very useful and extensive 18-page introduction to the crusades, which I would recommend to any student wanting initial background information on the subject. There is also an appendix of “Plans of Castles in Frankish Greece and Cyprus.” The last volume contains a section called “Texts and Documents.” These are primary documents which include letters to and from crusaders, kings, and clergy, as well as royal reports, deeds, chronicles, and crusade songs and ballads. This four volume set has over 1,000 signed alphabetical entries which each have bibliographical references. They include translated texts on individual crusades, rulers, places, people, institutions, and chronologies of expeditions. There are also 54 maps, numerous period paintings and modern photographs of battle sites and castles. Although the maps included are well done, I would have like to have seen more of them as geography plays such a significant role in this story. Each volume contains a complete index to the entire set as well as a ten-page general bibliography.

This encyclopedia gives excellent coverage and depth to its topic. The introduction and the articles give good background, as well as detailed information on the major players, places, and events. The general and article specific bibliographies, as well as the primary documents, offer scholarly access to deeper research on this influential period of history. The Crusades: an Encyclopedia would be a worthy addition to the reference shelves of any public or academic library.