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From the Reference Desk-Reviews of Reference Titles

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product or service genuinely help scientists? Are we a good organisation to provide it? Is it likely to become economically self-sustaining? And does it bring something valuable to our other existing projects? If the answers to all those questions are yes, and if we can assemble the right people to take it forward, then we’ll give it a go. We tend to work in small project-oriented teams, whether within the central Digital Science team or at one of our portfolio companies. These teams are quite autonomous, but there’s also central support in areas like management, business development, marketing, and technology. We also encourage and enable collaborations between projects where we see mutual benefits.

Why is a different approach to innovation needed in the scientific community?

TH: I’m not sure that it is. We don’t need a different approach to innovation than happens elsewhere (e.g., in consumer markets), but we do need innovation, and there’s been far too little of that in the area of information services for science. The Web was created just over 20 years ago for the specific purpose of enabling scientists to share information with each other, yet today consumer and business activities dominate. Scientists have better tools for managing their music and photo collections than they do for managing the information they use in their professional lives. It’s not hard to understand why — science is a much smaller market than, say, games or office productivity — but it’s still a problem and Digital Science exists to address it.

How did you personally get involved with Digital Science?

TH: I was working at Nature Publishing Group helping to run the online business and was part of the team that cooked up the idea of Digital Science. Annette Thomas, Macmillan’s CEO, then asked me to run it. After considering this deeply for about a millisecond, I said yes.

What has surprised you most about the development of new ideas within the scientific realm?

TH: I’m continually surprised by how long it takes for new technologies and working practices to be adopted. But, frankly, I shouldn’t be surprised by this anymore, so I guess it’s really an indication of my own impatience. To look on the bright side, this means that there are still huge opportunities to make science more productive, as well as more fulfilling for those who practice it. The evolution of technology as applied to science is still in the Cambrian Era, and as a technology geek who used to be a scientist, I can’t think of anything more important or fulfilling to work on.

From the Reference Desk

by Tom Gilson (Associate Editor, Against the Grain, and Head of Reference Emeritus, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29401) <gilson@cofc.edu>


Admittedly, this two-volume subset does more than provide a specialist’s focus on British graphic artists and illustrators. It updates the origin by including 90 revised entries as well as 60 new articles above and beyond those found in the full Benezit Dictionary of Artists. Overall, there are some 3,000 entries covering “print-makers, poster artists, illustrators, cartoonists, calligraphers, and illuminators either native to or active in the United Kingdom from the Middle Ages to the present.” Following the established template of the Benezit Dictionary, the entries in this set provide biographical sketches informed by the available information, so the entries vary in length and structure. All have the name, gender, time the artist was active, and the medium(s) they worked in, followed by a narrative — some barely a sentence long while others a number of paragraphs in length. The more substantial entries will also provide birth and death dates and list exhibitions, museum and collection holdings, auction records, and bibliographies. In a small number of cases, the entry is illustrated with artist signatures and stamps of sale.

The Benezit Dictionary of British Graphic Artists and Illustrators is a smartly re-packaged subset of a classic attuned to the needs and interests of specialists. Depending on demand, libraries already owning the 2006 English edition of the Benezit Dictionary of Artists may or may not feel the need for this in their reference collection. However, given the specific concentration on British artists, it may be a viable addition to some circulating collections. Serious students and scholars may also wish a copy for their own shelves. The two-volume set is nicely bound, handy, and full of relevant and authoritative information.

(The parent publication, The Benezit Dictionary of Artists is available electronically via Oxford Art Online, which also allows simultaneous searching of Grove Art Online, the Encyclopedia of Aesthetics, The Oxford Companion to Western Art, and The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms. According to the Website, Oxford Art Online is updated three times a year.)

The Encyclopedia of Cyber Behavior (2012, 978-1466603158, $1495) is a three-volume set recently published by IGI Global. Edited by Zheng Yan of the University of Albany. This reference attempts to provide a defining foundation as well as scholarly clarity to this “emerged” field of study that concentrates on the place where human behavior and cyberspace meet.

The world of cyber behavior is a complex place that draws on multiple disciplines to make sense of what is being observed about the nature of human-cyberspace interaction. Editor Zheng Yan and the more than 200 scholars that contribute to this effort are informed by disciplines ranging from sociology to technology and from business and health to communications and law. The set does not employ an alphabetical arrangement but rather is organized into ten sections in a kind of hierarchical structure. The first section builds some foundations by discussing the work of pioneer scholar Sherry Turkle, the field of social network studies, and the influence of efforts like the Pew Research Center Internet and American Life Project, NetLab, and the Children’s Digital Media Center. The focus then switches to three “key components” of cyber behavior including cyber technologies like chatrooms, wikis, and smartphones; cyber populations ranging from digital natives and the net generation to seniors; and cyber interactions like multi-tasking; online collaboration, and cyber cafes and the youth development. The next five sections discuss cyber behavior as manifest in specific fields like business, medicine, law, government, and education. This coverage results in articles on topics as diverse as e-auctions, Internet addiction, cyber bullying, Internet fraud, Twitter and political elections, cyber warfare, and e-learning behaviors in middle school. While many of these chapters seem informed by cyber behavior in the U.S., the final section looks at cyber behavior in Europe and Latin America as well as China, India, Japan, Canada, and Russia. Surprisingly, there was no chapter on cyber behavior in the Middle East.

Each chapter is structured in a similar fashion starting with an abstract, an introduction defining the topic, an intellectual history along with a state of the art section. The next section provides a theory based on the current research, and then a related research section is provided. The final section provides an evaluation of the current research and the applications for the future. Finally, there is an extensive bibliography.

The two-volume set is nicely bound, handy, and full of relevant and authoritative information.

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Ms. Barton-Bellessa and her contributors have ensured that the value of community-based corrections emerges from these pages. Confronted with the financial and social costs of incarceration, it becomes apparent from examining their efforts that community corrections are a viable alternative. However, the complexity of core elements like parole, probation, the courts, community's reactions, and victim's rights and restorative justice are also made obvious. As such, the Encyclopedia of Community Corrections offers a comprehensive and nicely-balanced treatment of a multifaceted and important topic. Needless to say, it is deserving of a place in any serious criminal justice collection and would be appropriate in either reference or circulation.

The Encyclopedia of Community Corrections is also available electronically via Sage Reference Online. Those interested in pricing can email <librarysales@sagepub.com>.


A number of major developments and their ramifications have shaped the course of land and natural resource policy since the first edition, and they are all covered here. Sections have been updated to cover developments ranging from Presidential timber policies to the laws governing the National Parks and wilderness areas to the discussion of national energy policy in the wake of the BP oil spill. Other policy areas covered include water resources, endangered species, and grazing and public lands. There are also chapters that discuss the evolution of public lands policy as well as the debate about public lands and natural resources.

Mr. Pressman wisely includes a number of new value-added features that readers will appreciate. There are 33 primary documents interspersed among relevant chapters and a variety of state-specific charts and tables full of useful statistics, not to mention color maps from Nationalatlas.gov. There are also other statistical tables that list national figures for things as diverse as public domain forest and woodland acres, number of grazing permits, natural gas consumption and resources estimates, oil production, pollutants found in stormwater, and water availability in the Western states. In addition, this volume has a directory of federal government offices ranging from regional offices of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and the offices of the U.S. Geological Survey. And to balance things out, Mr. Pressman also offers listings of industry associations and resources organized by broad categories like agriculture, fishing, the environment and conservation, lumber, mining, paper products, petroleum, and water supply.

A chronology, a glossary, a bibliography and a general index help round out the volume. U.S. Land and Natural Resources Policy: History, Debates, State Data, Maps, and Primary Documents is a meticulously compiled reference work. Mr. Pressman has done in-depth research in gathering updated information adding to the impressive work of his predecessor, Dr. Bryner. Working professionals as well as students and scholars with find this resource organized in a logical user-friendly fashion and full of relevant information.

Extra Servings


Sage Press has released two sets in a new series adding to their “Critical Survey” collection.

• Critical Survey of Graphic Novels: Heroes & Superheroes (two volumes - ISBN: 978-1-58765-865-5, $295; e-ISBN: 978-1-58765-869-3, single user price: $295) “provides … insight into over 130 of the most popular and studied graphic novels… Essays look beyond the “pop culture” aspects of the medium to show the wide range of literary themes and artistic styles used to convey beliefs and conflicts, some harking back to ancient times.


CQ Press plans to publish the 5th edition of their highly regarded The Guide to the Presidency and the Executive Branch, (ISBN: 978-1-6087-1906-8, $425.00) in September 2012. This updated edition “features more than 2000 boxtexts, tables, and figures, as well as hundreds of images… Major revisions cover the supporting White House organizations and the president’s role as chief economist.”

Sage Reference is updating a couple of valuable titles.

• Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change (three volumes, ISBN: 978-1-4129-9261-9, $375; eISBN: 978-1-4522-1856-4, electronic Price: $496) this second edition will feature “40 entirely new entries … and a thorough revision of more than half of the original ones. The print set will have “more than 750 A-to-Z, up-to-date entries” while the online version plans to incorporate...
QUESTION: How does one copyright a font? A designer wants others to be able to use the font but wants to ensure that she will be credited and have some control over its use.

ANSWER: Unfortunately, fonts are typically not eligible for copyright protection. The designer may be able to license the font for use as a way to control it but only by contract and not through copyright. A number of online sources discuss copyright issues as they relate to fonts; two examples are http://www akahead.com/comp/fonts/FAQ/cf_13.htm and http://blog.crowdspring.com/2011/03/font-law-licensing/.

QUESTION: In June 1950, a Hollywood motion picture was filmed on campus at what was then an Army hospital with some scenes shot in the town; the film was released in 1951. Some locals were even extras in the film. In the next few months there will be a ceremony on campus to present a historical marker from the state Historical and Museum Commission. The campus wants to screen the movie repeatedly during the day-long activities. The screening would be free and open to the campus and local community, veterans, and former employees of the hospital. Would the institution infringe copyright by showing the film as described? The librarian found the movie in its entirety on YouTube and also on "OV Guide." Does this mean the film is in the public domain, or is protected until 2045.

ANSWER: Whether showing the film on campus the day of the celebration constitutes infringement depends on whether the film is still under copyright. Where it was filmed does not have much to do with the copyright, however. It is possible that the film is in the public domain, but if it was registered in 1950 the 1978 Act would have been effective at the time of renewal. If renewed in 1978, it would have received an additional 47 years of protection for a total of 75, now 95 years. It is either in the public domain now or is protected until 2045.

The fact that the movie is available on YouTube and other sources may mean that it is in the public domain, but not necessarily so. Viewings on YouTube are more likely to be private performances than are the repeated public performances described in the question. The librarian could check the Copyright Office records to see if the copyright was renewed or contact the movie studio and seek permission. The campus could decide to assume the risk and go ahead and show the film, but it clearly is a public performance (one of the exclusive rights of the copyright holder).

QUESTION: A publisher asks for clarification of the statement in the February 2012 column regarding Creative Commons licenses and whether they are revocable. As a part of an answer regarding abandonment of copyright when an author is deceased and his heirs want to change the CC license, the column stated that the license is revocable as to future licenses but not as to anyone who had already used the work as permitted under the license.

ANSWER: The CC license itself says that licenses are not revocable but that the owner of the work may stop distributing the license or change the terms of licenses for future users. Perhaps use of the term “revocable” is the problem, and I should have been clearer even though the question was focused on abandonment and proving a chain of conveyances. An excellent article by Steve Melamut states what I was trying to say but much more clearly than I did. “The licenses are non-revocable, meaning you can remove the license from the material but you cannot take back permission from those who have already used or downloaded the materials.” So, the owner may change the license or withdraw the work from distribution entirely but not against someone who has already used the work under the CC license that existed at the time.

It should also be noted that Creative Commons license complaints have not yet reached the courts, so the above is based on materials provided by CC rather than a court.

QUESTION: May a librarian reproduce an 1863 image that is included in a book? He cannot locate the original image. The book in which it is published is copyrighted and is dated 1980.

ANSWER: The answer to this question, however, depends on whether the photograph was published prior to 1980. If it was not published until 1980, then the copyright endures for 95 years after the death of the author or 2047, whichever is greater (See section 303(a) of the Copyright Act). If it had been published contemporaneously with its creation, or if it were published in the United States before 1923 it would now be in the public domain. Due to the age of the photograph, it is unlikely that the heirs of the photographer would come after a library that reproduced the image. Whether this is a fair use cannot be determined due to lack of information about the use of the reproduction.

The copyright impact of a work of corporate authorship is that the work is eligible for 95 years of protection after publication or 120 years after creation, whichever expires first.

**Endnotes**


From the Reference Desk

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“New multimedia elements such as some 250 full-color photographs and 50 video clips.”


Wiley Blackwell has also released a couple of recent titles of interest.

- Encyclopedia of Human Resource Management (three volumes, ISBN: 978-0-470-59134-5, $495) “Volume 1 covers an A-Z spectrum of all the key topics and issues related to human resource management, labor, and workplace policy. Volume 2 features hundreds of model employment forms, customizable or reproducible and compliant with current regulations. Volume 3 provides a summary of Employment Law, Labor Relations, and Human Resources Laws and Practices from over 250 countries, including key primary documents…”


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sex work, sport terror, Transnational Corporations, Twitter Revolution, water crisis, Web 2.0, Wikileaks, World Social Forum, and Zapatistas..."

- Wiley Encyclopedia of Composites, 2nd Edition (five volumes . ISBN: 978-0-470-12828-2, $1,575) This updated editions “presents over 260 new and revised articles addressing the new technological advances in properties, processing, formulation, design, analysis, evaluation, manufacture, testing, and reliability of composites...”

Grey House has published the 2012 edition of America’s Top-Rated Cities: A Statistical Handbook, 2012 (four volumes — softcover, ISBN: 978-1-59237-857-7, $250.00) Libraries that have found prior editions useful will no doubt feel the same about the newest version. As in the past, this set offers “comprehensive statistical information in one ... source on 100 cities that have been cited as the best for business and living in the United States.”

Online database subscriptions are available for a single user at $550. An online and print combination is available at $700. For multiple-user and library Access, call 800-562-2139 for a quote. 💥

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