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Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings

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pression 1929-1940 (2001, 0313306184, \$90) by **James S. Olson** provides straightforward explanations of more than the economic fallout from the stock market crash of 1929. In over 500 brief essays he discusses the political, social and cultural impacts as well as many of the personalities who grabbed the national spotlight. In short, coverage is rich and varied. Topics range from New Deal programs like the WPA and the CCC to popular movies like *Public Enemy* and *Frankenstein*. There are also articles that discuss individual countries ranging from Ethiopia to the Soviet Union as well as essays on people as diverse as sport legend **Jesse Owens**, renowned lawyer and activist **Clarence Darrow**, film star **Claudette Colbert** and secretary of labor **Frances Perkins**. In addition, there are entries that describe events like the Berlin Olympics and the London Economic Conference of 1933 and landmark legislation like the Banking Act, the National Labor Relations Act and the Social Security Act. Added features include a chronology and a general bibliography. This is one of those books that could benefit from a thematic list of entries. For example, the only way to discover which articles discuss popular radio programs is to look entry by entry. The general index is little help in this regard. A look under radio reveals only a listing for the *Radio Guild*, a specific program.

The *Historical Dictionary of the Great Depression 1929-1940* can be relied on for both quick facts and as a source that provides an overview of the topic. Depending on need, this title could find its way on to either reference or circulating shelves.

Another recent one-volume work deserving serious attention is a second edition of a book published by **Scarecrow**. The *Historical Dictionary of Terrorism* (2002, 0810841010, \$90) is a timely work illuminating a topic that has captured headlines

Publisher Profile from page 48

JL: Finally, you not only publish *HDCN* on-line; you are also a professor and teach medicine at the University of Illinois School of Medicine, Chicago; and you are a practicing physician. How do you manage to coordinate all these activities?

Dr. Daugirdas: Working very hard including nights and weekends! Since I am also a consumer of the information that *HDCN* generates, however, it does save me some time. For example, I edit a *Handbook of Dialysis*. With the material we put on-line on *HDCN*, it will be much easier for me to update the book when it comes time for the next edition. It is also somewhat a labor of love. 🍷

worldwide. Beginning with an introductory essay that points to the international dimensions of the phenomenon, authors **Sean K Anderson** and **Stephen Sloan** provide clear, precise descriptions of concepts, theories, specific terrorist groups as well as useful biographical sketches. From the Aryan Resistance Army in the United States to Khmer Rouge of Cambodia, from the IRA in Ireland to the Moro Liberation Front in the Philippines and from Hezbollah to the Tonton Macoutes of Papa Doc Duvalier's Haiti, this book discusses terrorist groups globally. It also defines phenomena like Islamic Fundamentalism, concepts like revolution and Jihad, methods like arson and kidnapping, as well as terms like narco-terrorism, homeland de-

fense and the Jewish underground. The coverage offered in this book is comprehensive while the approach scholarly and the writing is clear. Features like a useful chronology and a well designed, selected bibliography add to the *Dictionary's* value. My only problem is with the lack of access points. There are no indexes and although this is a *Adictionary*, the content is so rich and in many cases unfamiliar, that it demands more location tools. Both a thematic list as well as a general index would enhance this work and raise it to the level of an exceptional one-volume reference. Still, the *Historical Dictionary of Terrorism* is a title that a number of libraries, both public and academic, will want as part of the collection. 🍷

Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

Column Editor: **Debbie Vaughn**
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Editor's Note: This issue's column showcases books that deal with all sorts of issues in all types of libraries. The Haworth Press is an Old Faithful of library and information science resources; the information that this publishing house provides to our profession allows us to stay abreast of issues such as online academic research and off-campus library

services. Scholarly communication is imperative in all things academic, especially in fields in which technology plays a star role. Technology is information's bedfellow, and as librarians we are in the business of both technology and information. Thank goodness the books reviewed here can help us deal with information technology's challenges. — DV

Academic Research on the Internet: Options for Scholars and Libraries.
Helen Laurence and William Miller, Eds. New York: Haworth Information Press, 2001. 0789011778. \$49.95. 386 pages.

Reviewed by **Debbie Vaughn** (College of Charleston)

Even the most gifted wordsmith would not be able to deny that *Academic Research on the Internet: Options for Scholars and Libraries*, edited by **Helen Laurence** and **William Miller**, is a webliography. In its majority, this book is little more than a list of links to Web sites on various topics. Print Internet guides are often obsolete by the time of publication, so my hesitancy to review this title was high. A brief initial investigation curbed my fears, though, and after thoroughly delving into its content, I find *Academic Research on the Internet* to contain a cornucopia of valuable information, even over a year after its publication date.

Co-published simultaneously as *Journal of Libraries Administration*, volume 30, *Academic Research on the Internet* "seeks to assess the real value of the Internet for scholarly research." **Laurence** and **Miller** divide their volume into subject-based sections; anthropology, art, business, education, engineering, history, legal information, literature,

medical resources, natural science, philosophy, and political science all get coverage. If this volume were simply an annotated list of links to free-Web information, it would not be worth purchasing. The value of this book, however, is what fills in the cracks. **Laurence** and **Miller** asked their contributing authors (who are, not surprisingly, subject specialists, and almost all of whom possess either a doctorate or a second master's degree) not only to supply links to canon-like sites, but also to "assess the extent to which Internet sources can currently support scholarly research." The result: subject-based scholarly assessment of the quality of information on the Web.

Each section begins with a summary and is followed by information broken down into various sub-categories. For example, **Michael Seadle's** chapter, "Sound, Image, Action: Remaking History on the Internet," is divided according to resource type. Discussion groups, multimedia collections, pho-

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tographic image collections, searchable text collections, and other resources types are highlighted. Web sites included in each category are annotated with content as well as organizational information. On the other hand, Steven J. Bell's chapter, "Choosing Wisely from an Expanding Spectrum of Options: Business Information and the Internet," is divided according to sub-discipline. The general state of Web information is examined in the following fields: accounting/taxation, advertising and demography, company information, economics, entrepreneurship, finance, international business, and marketing. Top Websites in each field are mentioned within the body of the text, and the chapter closes with an annotated webliography of all cited sites. In all chapters, notes, references, appendices, charts, and illustrations are offered as needed, and the volume concludes with an in-depth index.

My skepticism prompted me to check the status of many of the sites listed in *Academic Research on the Internet*. Expecting to find several pesky 404 errors, I scrupulously pointed my browser to site after site. Very few of the Web resources that are highlighted by the contributing authors are defunct. In short, *Academic Research on the Internet* impresses me; it is a must-have for your academic library collection.

Off-Campus Library Services. Anne Marie Casey, Ed. New York: Haworth Information Press, 2001. 0789013401. \$49.95. 467 pages.

Reviewed by Debbie Vaughn (College of Charleston)

Skim any issue of *Library Trends*, *Computers in Libraries*, *Library Journal*, or our own *Against the Grain* and immediately you will recognize the abundance of literature on one of our profession's gravest topics: off-campus library services. Whether we work in acquisitions or reference, circulation or administration, remote users and their needs and expectations comprise much of our thought. Will off-campus access to databases and full-text journals change license agreements? What is the most effective way to provide reference services to remote users? Who will ensure copyright compliance in our electronic reserves system? How will the increase in electronic services affect staffing?

Off-Campus Libraries Services, edited by Anne Marie Casey, brings together ideas on literally every aspect of its apt title. Co-published simultaneously as *Journal of Library Administration*, volumes 31 and 32, *Off-Campus Library Services* is a collection of the proceedings of the Ninth Off-Campus Library Services Conference held in 2000. Though at one time this conference, and subsequently its papers, focused on library services to distance education students, it is at once obvious that "off-campus" no longer

only refers to this sect of patrons; rather, "off-campus" encompasses a wide breadth of users, class types, and delivery options for services. As remote access to library resources is becoming standard (especially among higher education institutions), "distance" no longer equates with "far away"—in many cases, it simply means "from the residence hall." Despite the fact that this volume is largely centered on services that result from off-site and Web-based courses, any kind of library can benefit from the information found between its covers. Off-campus is off-campus, whether it is down the street, across the state, or around the world.

Thirty-four papers are included in *Off-Campus Libraries Services*, all of them unique in scope. Titles include "Consortium Solutions to Distance Education Problems: Utah Academic Libraries Answer the Challenges;" "Document Delivery Options for Distance Education Students and Electronic Reserve Service at Ball State University Libraries;" "From Isolation to Cooperation: The Changes that Technology Creates in Institutional Culture;" "Knowing Your Users and What They Want: Surveying Off-Campus

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ATG Annual Survey Report

by Michael Litchfield (Charleston Conference Coordinator)
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Ahem. I can hear the crickets chirping out there. We had a pretty decent return on the survey last year, so I had a good pool of data to report on. Oh how the times have changed. I have fewer surveys to look at this year, and every single one of them is from the Northeast. Most (56%) are academic librarians, 22% are technical services librarians, 11% are special librarians, and 11% are reference librarians. The average experience is 21 years (last year's average experience was 18.5 years). Hard as it is to find trends with these returns, some things can be determined. Such as, librarians no longer have five free minutes to fill out a two-page questionnaire. Katina and I have been comparing our returns this year with last year, and the results seem to be fairly similar. So the report of this year's survey is more a report of how results that came back this year affect the results from last year.

The first question on the survey is about eBooks. About two-thirds of librarians bought eBooks last year, and the results

haven't changed much. We next asked about any functions you are **outsourcing**. Fifty-five percent of the respondents this year say that they are outsourcing cataloging, and the combined results of this and last year show an increase in this area from 25% to 29%, but every other field seems to reflect last year's results: about half of you outsource approval plans, about 10% outsource acquisitions, and about a fifth outsource other areas of librarianship.

A third of this year's respondents report **downsizing** in their libraries. When the data is combined with last year's results, the overall figure climbs from 20% to 22%, with libraries that downsized professional staff climbing from 7 to 10% and paraprofessional staff from 14 to 15%. **Teams implementation** and **merging** report a combined 7% this year, from 5% last year. When asked what the effect of downsizing was, a third of those downsized say it's positive, half say it's negative, and others report that it has increased the workload for reference librarians and decreased the responsiveness of cataloging.

Budgets

Budgets seem to be reflecting last year's data. The overall percentage of librarians with increasing budgets remains 71% and those with decreasing budgets climbs from 14 to 15%. The gap in dollars is narrower, however. The average increase last year was 9%, this year it's 7.6%, but the dubiously good news is that budgets seem to be being cut less—from 16% last year to 6% this year. Books and journals reflect this trend with identical numbers, and **electronic resources** are the biggest gainers again in the budget shuffle—average increase is up from 13.5% to 15.5%, and no one this year reported a decrease in their electronic resources budget.

The breakdown of budgets doesn't seem to change much in most areas. Books continue to take an ever slowly shrinking percentage of the budget, from 28% last year to 25% when both years are combined. CD-ROMs continue to receive less than 1% of the overall budget, journals continue to receive a steady 50%, online resources stay 6%,

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and miscellaneous expenses stay just over 4%. **Electronic serials** doubled their percentage when the results from the two years were combined. Last year electronic serials claimed just over 6% of the budget, while the combined amounts for this and last year show just under 13%, because this year's respondents report that between a fifth and a third of their budget goes to this burgeoning field. (By the way, for those of you scratching your heads over my addition, last year's respondents left about five percent of their budgets unaccounted for, while this year they come pretty close to 100%.)

Internet

Most libraries have **Webpages** at this point. Only sixty-six percent of this year's respondents say they have library homepages, but really, how often do you look up a library on the Internet only to find a gaping hole where the library should be? Combined results are 85%, which still seems a little low. In a related question, 44% of the libraries have merged with their computer center, compared with 15% last year.

When asked about how they use the **Internet**, most librarians respond that they search for OP books and they use the Internet for BIP searches. It seems a little odd that more say "checking publishers' Websites" and "searching Amazon.com" than "online ordering," but y'all do order things from vendors' Websites too.

Document Delivery

Nearly 60% of you use commercial document delivery, a figure that didn't change this year. Overall, the number of you who are satisfied with your document delivery operation slips from 64% to 63%, but this seems more a spurious aberration than a trend, since those of you who aren't satisfied stayed 3%. Not enough of you reported dollar figures for document delivery to even pretend to draw a conclusion. Those of you who use **ILL** figures in your collection development policy stay about the same, 60%. (And, unlike last

year, no one said that their ineffective **ILL** service was a major factor in acquisitions, so things seem to be improving.)

Training for the Future

Nearly all libraries provide training for their Technical Assistants, a strong 97%. And for the three percent who don't, shame on you. The types of training stay the same. 88% provide in-house training, 54% provide continuing education, a third provide satellite courses, 72% fund travel (in these uncertain days, a heartening figure), and 25% fund credit courses.

When asked how you deal with increasing resources and demands (and shrinking budgets and staff), 90% of you simply tighten your belts and work harder. A growing number of you are cutting back to the bare necessities: only 3% reported doing this last year, but twenty-two percent reported **cutting services** this year. A fairly constant fifth of you provide training to end users, and a shameful 3% send users away (fortunately, no one out this year's group has reported resorting to this extreme). A strong group, thirty-three percent of this year's respondents, say, not in so few words, that it's time to **reinvent the librarian**.

Acquisitions and Preservation

A quarter of you are resorting to paperback-only approval plans, and 35% of you don't have **approval plans**. The number of you instituting paperback-only firm order is about 28%, holding steady from last year, although nearly all of you, this year and last, report that you only buy hardcover when paper is unavailable. When you have the option of **canceled paper journal subscriptions** in favor of electronic, 54%, a consistent number between the two years, do so. The average amount of subscriptions canceled last year came to \$22,156. This year that figure would climb a little. One of our group this year canceled a million dollars worth of subscriptions (at least that's what the email said), but even discounting this figure the dollars add up to \$38,666. The two years added together show an average of about \$25,000 canceled.

Last year, 8% of you said that "some other

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Students About Library Services;" "Now You Can Get There from Here: Creating an Interactive Web Application for Accessing Full-Text Journal Articles from Any Location;" "Straddling Multiple Administrative Relationships;" "Virtual Desk: Real Reference;" and, my personal favorite, "Developing an Effective Off-Campus Library Services Web Page: Don't Worry, Be Happy!" All papers commence with a summary and keywords, and many include a literature review when

applicable. Notes, references, appendices, charts, and illustrations are offered as well. A thorough index concludes. **Off-Campus Libraries Services** is the next-best-thing to attending the Off-Campus Library Services Conference.

The struggles of remote access are not exclusive to distance learning or academic libraries. All libraries and all librarians will garner a wealth of information on a variety of topics concerning distance library service. **Off-Campus Libraries Services** is invaluable to your institution's collection and your own.

Latin American Studies *An Annotated Bibliography of Core Works*

Ana María Cobos and Ana Lya Sater. [176] pages, 2002, \$49.50 softcover (7 × 10), references, indexes, ISBN 0-7864-1256-9.

Eric Moon *The Life and Library Times*

Kenneth F. Kister. Foreword by John N. Berry III. [480] pages, 2002, \$30 softcover (7 × 10), photographs, notes, bibliography, index, ISBN 0-7864-1253-4.

Four Paths to Jerusalem *Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Secular Pilgrimages, 1000 BCE to 2001 CE*

Hunt Janin. 272 pages, 2002, \$45 hardcover (7 × 10), photographs, maps, notes, chronology, appendices, bibliography, index, ISBN 0-7864-1264-X.

African American Recipients of the Medal of Honor

A Biographical Dictionary, Civil War through Vietnam War

Charles W. Hanna. [224] pages, 2002, \$45 hardcover (7 × 10), appendix, bibliography, index, ISBN 0-7864-1355-7, ISBN 0-7864-1171-6.

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