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Book Reviews-Monographic Musings-Internet User's Handbook 2001, Women in U.S. History: A Resources Guide and The American Revolution in the Southern Colonies

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Updike's diversity and growth as a writer. It is a candidate for reference and circulating collections in most academic libraries. Individual scholars with a specific interest in Updike's work may want a copy of their own.

Another bibliography/research guide that may be of interest is the *Undergraduates Companion to American Writers and Their Websites* (2001, 1563088592, \$25.50). With this book *Libraries Unlimited* has published a compilation of resources which students and librarians will find useful. However, the title is a bit misleading. When I first pick it up, I thought that this was a webliography, and while there are Websites listed among the recommended references, many more are from other print sources. But the Websites listed are selective and have been examined by the authors to assure quality. They have also include annotations for many of them. The more extensive entries contain listings for biographies and criticism, dictionaries, encyclopedias and handbooks, journals, indexes and concordances, and bibliographies. Authors **James K. Bracken** and **Larry Hinman** have wisely based their selection of writers on standard literary anthologies. They only cover authors featured in the *Concise Anthology of American Literature*, *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, the *Harper Collins Literature* and the *Heath Anthology of American Literature*. The entries are arranged chronologically to facilitate those students studying specific periods of American writing. There is also an alphabetical list of authors with related page numbers. However, this is not a comprehensive guide. Bracken and Hinman admit that authors ranging from "Andy Adams to Maya Angelou to Rosanna Warren and Louis Zukofsky" are not included. But my main reservation about this book has to do with their "Strategy for Literary Research in the 21st Century," outlined in the introduction. They recommend students start with the Internet. This may be what students want to hear and what the media hype would lead them to believe, but I question the soundness of the advice. Admittedly, there are quality literary Websites. The authors list a number of them in their book as well as offering advice on identifying others. However, placing the Web above proprietary literary databases and print reference titles strikes me, at best, as premature, and at worse, a surrender to fad and convenience. Until there is more reliable quality in cyberspace, I prefer promoting the "library brand" of resources first, and then recommending the Web. Nonetheless, the *Undergraduates Companion to American Writers and Their Websites* is of definite value, especially for its intended audience.

Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

Column Editor: **Deborah Vaughn** (Reference Librarian,
College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

Spring symbolizes rebirth and growth. Grass gets greener, trees get taller, flowers bloom, and nature deliciously and gracefully stretches after a long winter's nap. For as many new things as there are to celebrate in this peaceful season, there are also old things to honor. In March we celebrated the 1995 unveiling of Netscape Navigator 1.1. Women's history was also celebrated throughout the month of March. April 18, 1775, marks Paul Revere's famous ride, the popular precursor to the American Revolution. And what brings them all together? I'd like to think that **National Library Week**, April 1-7, is the tie that binds. How could we appreciate growth and history without reading about it? How could we learn about female pioneers without books? And how could we have access to many intellectual and technological treasures without the library?

So the next time you're wondering what **Internet users**, **women's history**, and the **American Revolution** have in common, you'll know: you can check them out at the library. Happy reading! — **DV**

Ater, Mark and Betty Ater. *Internet User's Handbook 2001*.
Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2001. 0786411317. \$22.50.

Reviewed by **Debbie Vaughn**
(College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

"This book is dedicated to brand new computer users who want simple explanations." Thus begins Mar and Betty Ater's *Internet User's Handbook 2001*, a concise introduction to anything and everything relating to the Internet. For those of you who do not work behind a reference desk, you would be surprised at the number of folks who claim to be computer illiterate and web un-savvy. Of course, most of these patrons ask for help from a reference librarian only after they have spent a considerable chunk of time—sometimes even hours—at a computer, unsuccessfully searching and surfing for some bite (and byte) of information. It is a phenomenon that I affectionately call "e-embarrassment." With computers and the Internet being givens in most of American society, people are often uncomfortable (and, yes, even embarrassed) when they cannot find something that they feel they should be able to quickly discover by the input of a few words and the click of a mouse. E-embarrassment is not unique to any particular age group, nor is it specific to any gender or level of income. It can strike anyone at anytime. And it can strike in your library.

One solution is to add the *Internet User's Handbook* to your collection and to promote it to those patrons who often feel uncomfortable with the "whole web thing." In the spirit of **Gordon P. Foreman's PC Buyers Handbook 2000** (see ATG 12.4), Ater and Ater have created a guide to the Internet that is both all-encompassing and to the point. From the

first page of the introduction to the last page of the glossary, *Internet User's Handbook* is packed full of useful facts, hints, and advice. From operating systems to viruses, from wallpaper to ISPs, from Netscape Navigator to Microsoft Internet Explorer, the Aters cover it.

Readers be warned: this is not a reference guide. It is not a source that can be easily and quickly referred to in times of trouble without having previous knowledge the content. Rather, *Internet User's Handbook* is best read cover to cover before computer/Internet use. Though it has an acceptable index, this book does not lend itself to ready-reference as triumphantly as, for example, books in the **Peachpit Press' Visual QuickStart series** (point your browser to www.peachpit.com).

It does, however, help to make e-embarrassment a thing of the past. Chapters include "Internet Service Providers," "Do's and Don'ts," "Freebies," "Almost Free," and "Using a Credit Card Online," to name a few. Screen captures, step-by-step instructions, and "tricks" accompany information on issues such as cookies, message boards, and screen savers. Subject-specific chapters such as "Money," "Games," "Travel," "Hobbies," "Government," and "Finance," suggest websites for readers to visit. An appendix of the authors' "Favorite Websites" is included. *Internet User's Handbook* is, without question, a wealth of information.

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While it is a wealth of information, *Internet User's Handbook* cannot escape its technological nature, and as with all technology books, the buyer must think twice before purchasing it. Though constructive screen captures, step-by-step instructions, and "tricks" are included, it is very likely that they will be of little use in two years. This is the book's Achilles heel; specific information and lists of web addresses are great for now, but they won't be great forever. It is important to keep this gravely important fact in mind when acquiring any materials that relate to computers and the Internet. Adding such materials makes collection development librarians jugglers of sorts: they must understand and reflect the usefulness of soon-to-be-outdated resources while maintaining their commitment to resources that withstand the test of time.

It is a safe bet that Ater and Ater's *Internet User's Handbook* will circulate frequently, especially in a public library setting. For patrons who are e-embarrassed or only slightly familiar with computers, the Internet, and the world wide web, it will be a beneficial addition to your collection—just get hold of it quickly before the information becomes old-fashioned.

Hardy, Lyda Mary. *Women in U.S. History: A Resources Guide*.

Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 2000.
1563087693. \$45.00.

Reviewed by Debbie Vaughn
(College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

I am automatically partial to Libraries Unlimited publications. I was sold the minute I began studying Bopp and Smith's *Reference and Information Services* under the tutelage of Dr. Charles Curran

at the University of South Carolina. To this day, I still consult *The Social Sciences*, edited by Nancy Herron. Lyda Hardy's *Women in U.S. History: A Resources Guide* only furthers my affection and appreciation for this Colorado publishing company.

Women in U.S. History is more than a list of resources, more than an annotated bibliography. Hardy has combined descriptions of old and new books and non-book materials, arranged by concise categories, with thoughts on women's historiography, women's history theory, methodology, and education. This 344-page volume is a unique hybrid of directory and essay, allowing it to serve purposes from reference source to teaching tool to class textbook.

The first section of Hardy's guide, "Women in United States History: An Overview," breaks down the female experience by time period. Three major sectors are explored: New World to New Nation, Prehistory to 1820; Victorians to Voters, 1820 to 1920; and New Milieu to New Millennium, 1920 to 2000. These sectors are then broken down into shorter time periods and major events, each of which offer accounts of both book and non-book materials. This first major

section in Hardy's book would be enough to thoroughly cover general sources in women's history, but she doesn't stop there. History is more than dates and events—it is people and philosophy, culture and customs, geography and climate, politics and religion, science and sexuality. It is never one-dimensional and always interdisciplinary.

The second and third sections of *Women in U.S. History* explore the breadth of sources that relate to the multi-faceted nature of history. "The Female Experience" delves into information sources (again, book and non-book) about African Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, Jewish Americans, Latinas, and Native Americans. "The Province of Women" describes such sources relating to the arts, literature, politics, religion, science and technology, sexuality, sports and recreation, and work.

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Profile Encouraged

John Riley

Sales Director, Eastern Book Company
<jdriley@mail.javanet.com>

Born when and where: April 15 1950 (Aries); Fort Bragg, California on the Mendocino coast. I grew up in Ukiah and Santa Rosa.

Current Residence: Northampton, Massachusetts. In the foothills to the Berkshires on the Connecticut River.

Education: B.A. Comp. Lit. from **University of California Santa Barbara**; graduate studies in modern American literature with **Hugh Kenner**; Library Science at **University of Rhode Island**; 2 years of residence in Italy: **Liceo Galvani** and **University of Padua**.

Summary of job experience: Work-study in the Art Library at **UCSB** translating for catalogers. Opened a bookstore in Isla Vista during senior year at UCSB. Two years later opened a second bookstore in Santa Barbara. I met my wife when she came into the shop one summer while on vacation. After moving to her home state of Massachusetts we owned and operated bookstores in Amherst and Northampton. Later I worked in sales for **Peregrine Smith and Spring Publications**. I then worked for **Ambassador Book Service** as a sales representative. For the last four years I have worked as the Sales Director for **Eastern Book Company**.

Family: Married to **Patty Ferretti Riley**. She runs **Gabriel Books**, a used and rare bookshop in Northampton. The shop has had **Bob Dylan**, **Kurt Vonnegut**, **Julia Child** and **Janet Belanger** as customers. We have 2 children: **Gabriel** 22 yrs. and **Corinna** 18.

Proudest Accomplishment: Working with my wife and family to help my son **Benjamin** during his struggle with Adolescent Onset Bipolar Disorder and addiction. Though he died in June 2000, we were blessed to have had him with us for twenty years.

Fond Memory: Living with the **Guandalini** family in Bologna, Italy while on an **American Field Service** scholarship. I still speak Italian with a Bolognese accent. And returning to Italy 3 years later to study in Padua, a 30 minute train ride from Venice where student tickets to **La Fenice** opera house were only \$6.00.

Favorite Pastime & Hobbies: Golf, cooking, book collecting.

Last books read: *Laughter in the Dark* by **Nabokov**; *Papal Sins* by **Gary Wills**.

Pet Peeve: Neologisms such as: infomediary, infopreneur, info anything, p-books, ebraries, e-tc.

What in 5 years: Traveling internationally for Eastern Books.

World enough and time: Reading and writing and traveling around Ireland for a year with time off for a combination golf and distillery tour in Scotland and a detour to the Edinburgh Festival.

Advice: The organized person can be happy, even in hell. (Japanese Proverb)

Biggest surprise: When my sister **Catey** took me to the Napa Valley for a birthday dinner and instead put me in a glider. 5 minutes later we were 2,000 feet in the air. I was too blown away to be scared.

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It is the remaining three sections of Hardy's work that lend a unique flavor to *Women in U.S. History*. Rather than being annotative in nature, these chapters discuss the past and present study of women in history. "Historiography of Women in the United States" reveals that there has been a written record of women in history since Colonial times. The integration of women's studies into the historical canon is investigated in "Women's History Theory and Methodology." This integration, however, requires much thought, discussion, and change in and about the current education system. This dilemma is considered in the final chapter, "Transcended Education."

It simply cannot go unnoted that *Women in U.S. History* contains a superbly detailed table of contents and a thorough index. Standard among Libraries Unlimited publications, these points of reference make Hardy's book reader- and researcher-friendly.

Women's history is, quite unfortunately, a sticky subject in that perceptions of its worth are often skewed. (Arguably, the same can be said for black history.) Those of us who recognize the utter importance of digesting an accurate historical record see that is impossible to do so without looking at all aspects of human civilization, be they aspects of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, or religion. In society's quest for political correctness, much lip service is paid to the significance of women's role in history. Yet our own Library of Congress does not include "Women's History," "History - Women," "Women in History," or even "History of Women" in its list of subject headings. Women's history, along with other minorities' history, needs to be in our libraries. When it is in our libraries, it can be studied by our patrons. When it is studied by our patrons, it can be added to schools' curricula. When it has been added to individual curricula, it can be integrated into the education system. Order Hardy's *Women in U.S. History* and jump-start the cycle.

Russell, David Lee. *The American Revolution in the Southern Colonies*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2000. 0786407832. \$55.00.

Reviewed by **Debbie Vaughn**
(College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

Since I am a born-and-bred South Carolinian, and also possessing a BA in history, **David Lee Russell's** *The American Revolution in the Southern Colonies* intrigued me by its title alone. Often, when an American thinks of the Revolution, he or she conjures up mental sketches of George Washington in the frigid Delaware River. Seldom do people realize the extent of war activity in the southeastern sector of this glorious country.

In his summer blockbuster "The Patriot," **Mel Gibson** gave Charleston—or Charles Town, to which it was then referred—sudden popularity for its role in the American Revolution. As is the case in many "historical fiction" productions, Mel's invented character, **Benjamin Martin**, along with most of the characters in "The Patriot," were conglomerates of sorts, based on a handful of actual Revolutionary personalities. (Go to the "Characters" section at www.thepatriot.com to learn more about the film's personages.) *The American Revolution in the Southern Colonies* gives readers a view of these personalities and the history that molded and enveloped them.

Russell begins his work with a brief yet solid background of early southern American history. Relating the slave trade, indentured servitude, and individual colony characteristics, he sets the stage for the ever-present and permeating conflict that became the

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American Revolution. Amazingly, Russell accomplishes this survey of the South's early years in a mere twenty pages by eliminating the wordiness often associated with historical writing. This cut-and-dry writing style is present throughout *The American Revolution in the Southern Colonies*, giving this resource a highly readable quality.

After the background chapters, each southern campaign and battle is recounted in staggering detail. From Norfolk, Moore's Creek Bridge, and Sullivan's Island to Guilford Court House, Chesapeake Capes, and Yorktown, Russell discusses issues in ammunition, manpower, and townspeople. His accounts are not wanting for detail and no event is too small for mention.

Not ending his book with the end of the war, Russell includes a chapter entitled "After Surrender" which could quite possibly be my favorite. Any good read leaves you slightly hanging, wondering what happens to the main characters after their printed stories have ended. "Selected Post-Revolution Biographical Sketches" answers those hankerings for closure.

Russell adds spice to his titillating narrative by inserting attention-grabbing threads into the war history. Who knew that Scottish rebel **Bonnie Prince Charlie** had ties to the American Revolution? Who would have guessed that the people of Richmond anticipated British General **Benedict Arnold's** takeover, allowing them to successfully hide valuable personal property before the attack? Who'd have "thunk" that the relatively high cost of living belonging to my beloved Charleston can be traced back to the 1780s?

Another ingredient tossed into Russell's book is primary source material. Every few pages include excerpts from letters and journals and historical maps and charts. Without these primary materials, *The American Revolution in the Southern Colonies* is good. With them, the book is smashing. Allowing readers the ability to interpret original documents is a gift.

With movies being made from a pound of invention, a handful of myth, and a pinch of historical accuracy, our society runs the risk of not knowing fact from fiction. As librarians, we owe it to our patrons to offer them the opportunity to discover the fascinating, genuine events and details that motion pictures do not and cannot portray. In this sense, Russell's book is a gem—a truly unadulterated assessment pre-Revolutionary history, a play-by-play account of the Southern campaigns and battles, and a resource for invaluable primary materials. Buy *The American Revolution in the Southern Colonies* and add it to your academic, public, or secondary school library collection.

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(China), Informatics (India), and BookNet (Southeast Asia). All reports are researched by subject-matter experts from the CSA Editorial staff in cooperation with its publishing partners. Each report summarizes the contents of up to 250 current references, including peer-reviewed literature and relevant Web resources. CSA also plans to add Customized Search services to **BiblioAlerts.com** in the near future. <http://www.csa.com/>

A three-year agreement with the consortia CAPCON and CIRLA has been signed allowing all participating member libraries unlimited access to the **Emerald** database of MCB University Press. CAPCON and CIRLA are the ninth and tenth consortia to sign agreements with MCB. These libraries include: The University of Maryland at College Park, Catholic University, The University of Delaware, Georgetown University, Morgan State University, Loyola Notre Dame Libraries, George Washington University, Howard University, The University of Maryland's Kuhn Library, and Johns Hopkins University. Emerald is comprised of over 130 fulltext academic journals, mainly in the fields of business science, management, education, finance, engineering, and library and information sciences. The awesome **Marietta Plank** (one of the best people in the world) <mplank@deans.umd.edu>, is the Executive Director

of the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA). For further information, contact **Dawn Marie Devine** (MCB North America Consortia Sales Manager) <dawn.devine@mcb-usa.com>.

Don't you want to meet **Kathie Henderson** <henderso@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu> and her husband? She tells me that her husband was an acquisitions librarian at **McCormick Theological Seminary Library** and from 1964 to 1996 was Preservation Librarian at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library**. They have team taught Preservation classes at the **Graduate School of Library and Information Science, UIUC** since 1988 and he now joins her in also team teaching Technical Services Functions at **GSLIS**. That's togetherness!

The **American Society of Civil Engineers'** book *Mechanics of Sediment Transport* by **Ning Chien** and **Zhaohui Wan** (0784404003, \$149 US) was on *Choice* magazine's **2000 Outstanding Academic Titles** list.

From the **ARL Server 1/29/00**—Having just completed **Post-Tenure Review** myself (whew!), I was interested to read about the new **SPEC Kit 261** on, guess what, **Post-Tenure Review** (October 2000) **SPEC Kit 261** summarizes outcomes at some institutions where **Post-Tenure Review** was instituted to hold faculty accountable to standards. <http://www.arl.org/spec/261sum.html>; www.arl.org.