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A Review of "Discovering and Using Historical Geographic Resources on the Web: A Practical Guide for Librarians"

Darren Sweeper

Montclair State University, sweeperd@mail.montclair.edu

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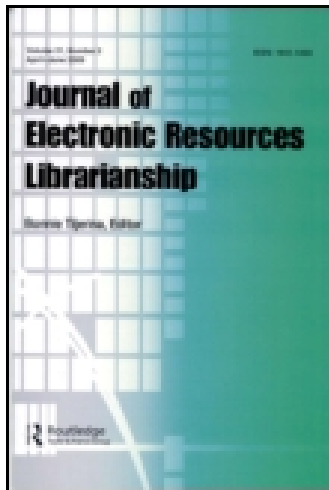
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A Review of "Discovering and Using Historical Geographic Resources on the Web: A Practical Guide for Librarians"

Darren L. Sweeper^a

^a Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ

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sensible tool in librarianship's toolkit" and should not be viewed as an "overhyped savior to libraries/librarianship."

The only thing that is missing in this book is a preface or introduction by the editor. It would have been better if there is one, just so the reader can see his view and rationale for putting together this book and why we need yet another book on PDA. Other than that, this book is a good addition to the growing literature on patron-driven acquisitions.

Regina Gong
Lansing Community College Library
Lansing, MI

Eva H. Dodsworth and L.W. Laliberte. 2014. *Discovering and Using Historical Geographic Resources on the Web: A Practical Guide for Librarians*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield. 119 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8108-9144-9.

Many books purport to be practical guides that librarians can use to acquire new skills. Some fail to deliver on their assertion of being a guide of practical use. Such is not the case for *Discovering and Using Historical Geographic Resources on the Web*. In their new book, Dodsworth and Laliberte, two experienced geographic information science librarians, have written an essential guidebook that will aid librarians, staff members, and scholars of all types, in acquiring the research acuity needed to locate, understand, and use the abundance of cartographic and geographic information that can be found on the web.

Written in five chapters, the book claims to be a comprehensive guidepost to historical cartographic and geographic resources. In the opening chapter, "Map Basics and the Research Process," the authors discuss the importance of acquiring the basic spatial literacy research skills and the development of core competencies needed to conduct effective searches. In this chapter, readers will understand the core elements that enhance spatial literacy, the process of scanning and become familiar with metadata, copyright, and citation.

In Chapter 2, "Historical Maps," the authors present a wide-ranging elucidation on various types of maps including the history of modern mapmaking, maps of discovery and exploration, topographic maps, maps from counties and cities, as well as cadastral maps. The second chapter concludes with a section on accessing online maps from libraries and other online resources followed by an impressive list of digitized historical map collections from various colleges and universities.

In the third chapter, entitled "Historical Plans and Surveys," several surveys and plans are explained and emphasized with special attention given to accessing and analyzing fire insurance plans, the use of public land survey maps, and how nautical charts are used to discover coastlines and to find shipwrecks. The chapter ends with a discussion on how to access online panoramic maps from the Library of Congress.

Chapter 4, "Historical Photographic and Images Resources," is the longest chapter in the book. In this chapter visual resources, such as photographs, postcards, and aerial photographs, are discussed. A brief but enlightening summary on the history of photographs is given followed by an explanation of how to access photographs from the World Wide Web and other online resources available from libraries, museums, and archival centers. Again, like in the previous chapter, the authors compile a list of websites from colleges

and universities with digitized online photograph collections. What is equally interesting, however, is the discussion on prints and photographs from the Library of Congress, the Imperial War Museum photographic archive, and local archive collections from major North American cities like Toronto and Philadelphia.

In the fifth and final chapter, “Historical Online Textual, Visual and Audio Resources,” the authors address the use of gazetteers as starting points of research, how to use city directories to locate names and occupations of homeowners, and how to locate and use local newspapers.

Not only do the authors provide specific illustrations on how to locate information, they also instruct the reader on how to analyze resources by providing actual examples on how such resources are used in the research process. The book offers an impressive array of websites that house digital collections, from both American and Canadian colleges and universities of various sizes as well as from different geographic locations throughout North America.

Discovering and Using Historical Geographic Resources on the Web is a well-documented and well-organized book. It is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the wealth of information on historical and geographic resources on the web. Its wide use to scholars from numerous fields makes it a valuable resource across disciplines.

Darren L. Sweeper
Montclair State University
Montclair, NJ

Christa Modschiedler and Denise Beaubien Bennett (Eds.). 2014. *Guide to Reference in Medicine and Health*. Chicago, IL: ALA Publishing. 468 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8389-1221-8.

“Medicine and Health” is one of more than 50 categories in the American Library Association’s *Guide to Reference* series, first published in 1929. An online version became available in 2008 at www.guidetoreference.org. This print subset of the database contains more than 1,500 annotated entries organized into 13 chapters. (The final numbered entry is 1,620, but some entries are repeated in more than one category.) Potential buyers can see a preview at www.alastore.ala.org/pdf/modschiedler_sample.pdf.

Four of the chapter headings focus on the professions of medicine, dentistry, nursing, and psychiatry, respectively. The remaining nine cover bioethics, consumer health, health care, international and global health, medical jurisprudence, nutrition, pharmacology and pharmaceutical sciences, public health, and toxicology. Entries are classified as one of the following: guides, bibliography, library catalogs, classification, indexes, abstract journals, databases, encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauruses, directories, handbooks, style manuals, histories, treatises, biography, statistics, tables, medical illustration and images, atlases, or quotations. Although the final category in each chapter is “Internet resources,” many of the entries for the print materials also provide a URL.

The book’s extensive index allows readers to browse an alphabetical list of dictionaries, from *Dictionary of Alternative Medicine* to *Dictionary of Visual Science*, as well as encyclopedias ranging from the *Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety* to the *Encyclopedia of Women’s Health Issues*. Users who have a favorite publisher can find all of the referenced Cambridge dictionaries, handbooks, and histories in one place. Similarly,