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Review of: Bonnie L. Walker, *Injury Prevention for the Elderly- A Research Guide* (Greenwood Press 1995)

David E. Belfort

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Erratum

The citation for this review is 7 *RISK* 89 (1996) in most commercial databases.

Bonnie L. Walker, *Injury Prevention for the Elderly: A Research Guide* (Greenwood Press 1995). Acknowledgments, appendices, author index, bibliographical references, foreword, preface, subject index. LC 95-32989; ISSN 0743-7560 [328 pp. Cloth \$75.00. 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881.]

The aging of the baby boom generation and concurrent growth of the field of gerontology make this bibliographical resource timely. Ms. Walker provides a broad range of reviews and references to publications that address the prevention of injuries to the aged. In her Preface, she suggests that her goal is:¹

to provide information that could be used to develop an injury prevention training program curriculum for people who care for the elderly in long-term care facilities as well as in the community.

Those who either have extensive contact with the elderly or implement prophylactic measures to protect them will find this annotated compilation especially useful.

In chapter 1, *General Injury Prevention*,² Walker lists resources that address broad public health concerns about the elderly. She presents a comprehensive listing of pamphlets, books, articles, reports, studies and bibliographic works, arranged alphabetically by author. These detail economic, epidemiological, medical, legal, public health and other issues pertaining to the health of seniors. For example, one reference, *The Handbook of Gerontological Nursing*,³ offers various methods of assessing common conditions. It is for clinicians, but other references will be helpful, e.g., to elder care advocates, counselors, other health care workers and family members.

In later chapters, Walker organizes according to specific concerns, e.g. alcohol and substance abuse,⁴ burns,⁵ choking,⁶ drowning,⁷ elder abuse,⁸ falls,⁹ food poisoning¹⁰ and suicide.¹¹

1 At xi.

2 At 1.

3 At 14.

4 At 19.

5 At 61.

6 At 77.

7 At 87.

8 At 93.

Walker's organization is impressive. Researchers can access information through her table of contents, subject index or author index.

Additionally, each chapter briefly introduces and reviews the specific cause of injury and its particular affect on the elderly. For instance, in the prelude to a chapter on malnutrition,¹² Walker points out that it is often not detected in seniors because symptoms are attributed to the aging process. Following this, selected resources on sub-topics range from the specifics of salt consumption to the broader subject of nutritional screening and intervention strategies.

While each of 621 references in the guide is followed by a concise synopsis, I was disappointed by her lack of explanation for why particular books and articles were chosen (or not) — and lack of comment on the strengths and weaknesses of most references.

On the whole, **Injury Prevention for the Elderly** contains an impressive compilation of materials useful for both experts and laypersons. Yet, like a fine dictionary, it is not an engaging read.

David E. Belfort[†]

⁹ At 115.

¹⁰ At 153.

¹¹ At 259.

¹² At 179.

[†] Mr. Belfort is a candidate for the J.D. at Franklin Pierce Law Center. He holds a B.A. (Economics) from the Hobart College and has worked for the New York State Department of Health.