

Resource Guide for an Academic Library

Part I: Scenario

This paper evaluates resources for an academic library in a medium-sized undergraduate college setting. Using Saint Olaf College's Rølvaag Memorial Library as a model, I ascertained the defining characteristics of this setting. The primary users of this library are the school's students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, and visiting scholars. According to its web site, "St. Olaf offers 44 graduation majors, including 10 teaching certifications, 19 concentrations and 20 pre-professional fields with the most popular majors (in order) being: English, psychology, biology, economics, mathematics and chemistry." The 5-floor library building is large enough to include in-depth resources for some, but not all subject specializations. To make up for limited size and collections, Rølvaag Memorial Library participates in catalog sharing with its neighbor, Carlton College, and has interlibrary loan partnerships with local and national libraries. Patrons utilize the print and electronic collections for scholarly and non-scholarly endeavors both on site and accessed remotely. Students, scholars, and faculty use scholarly materials, including both general and subject-specific reference works, on a regular basis. Because a lack of time and an inability to travel can hinder the research process, patrons need to have readily available access to information. A mandatory orientation program instructs students and faculty on how to find, select, identify and obtain access to print and electronic media. What is more, with the rapid development of computer technology in the recent years, more library users expect to find full-text journals and other reference works available online.

With a staff of about 35 people, the library serves users in person, by telephone, through written correspondence, and via e-mail. The library has a collection with about 600,000 items, of which 30% are non-print materials such as those on microfilm, video, compact discs, CD-ROM, DVD, or other electronic items. Print materials such as music scores, bound periodicals and books comprise the rest of the assortment. Most of the electronic collection is subscription-based, but the library website also has links to free resources.

Part II: Introduction

In order to select resources that would meet the user needs of the institution described in this scenario, I utilized various types of selection aids. Richard E. Bopp and Linda C. Smith's textbook Reference and Information Services: An Introduction served as my primary selection aid. I also used the University of Maryland, College Park Library Catalog and the Saint Olaf College Library Web Site as resources. In some cases, I received recommendations from librarians on the staff of Saint Olaf's Rølvaag Memorial Library obtained via e-mail correspondence.

I tried to evaluate fairly every resource that I selected by determining the cost and availability of the format reviewed from more than one source for each publication. Books in Print, Ulrichsweb.com, and WorldCat (the OCLC library network) gave bibliographic and formatting information, and sometimes directed me to review articles. Other sources of review articles are listed in the "Works Cited" portion of this introduction. Often, the same source that declared the price of a resource also indicated its availability. Amazon.com, Ulrichsweb.com, and Books in Print offered pricing information for resources when this information was not listed in the sources used for the other parts of the evaluation. Part III of this evaluation gives specific sourcing for each resource listed. Recommendations for purchase follow from careful consideration of the information aggregated from multiple print and electronic publications.

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Part III: Resources and Evaluation

I. Complete Bibliographic Citation

- Young, Marcaccio Kathleen and Burak, Sara. *Gale Directory of Databases*, 2006. Thomson Gale, 2005.

Type of Resource and/or type of information:

- Directory

Selection aids, guides, and/or other collections that include the resource. [You may include complete citations for aids and guides in introduction one time and refer by title in each entry.]

- Bopp & Smith (See introduction.)

Currency and frequency of updates/issues.

- Yearly

Scope of resource.

- “Profiles more than 12,500 databases available worldwide in a variety of formats. Entries include producer name and contact information, description, subject, language, update frequency, geographic coverage, availability and cost. Also available is information on software and system requirements and more.”
(<http://www.gale.com/pdf/facts/gdd.pdf>)

Intended audience.

- Scholarly & Professional

Formats available for this title including an indication of the format(s) examined.

For electronic databases, include information regarding vendor information (DIALOG, NEXIS, Silver Platter, etc.).

- Print. Online subscription-based and CD-ROM formats are also available. Vendors include DIALOG, NEXIS, Datastar, ORBIT, OCLC, Thomason, I/Plus Direct, HRIN, Sandpoints Hoover, and the Library Corporations NLightN. According to the RLG Union Catalog, the electronic version of this work is bundled with “the databases of fourteen of Gale’s most popular reference directories: Directories in print; Directory of special Libraries and information centers; Encyclopedia of American religions; Encyclopedia of associations, National organizations of the U.S. Encyclopedia of associations, International Organizations; Encyclopedia of associations, Regional, state and local organizations; Encyclopedia of governmental advisory organizations; Gale directory of databases; Gale directory of publications and broadcast media; Newsletters in print; Publishers directory; Research centers directory; International research centers directory and the Government research centers directory,” as part of the Gale’s Ready Reference Shelf Package (RLG).

A selected list of available reviews [list up to 3 reviews] of the resource and a synopsis of one of the existing reviews. If no reviews are found, write a brief review.

1. Copler, Judith. "Gale Directory of Databases, 2 vols.." Online 19.4(Jul 1995):107. Book Review Index Plus. Infotrac. 10 Oct 2006
<<http://infotrac.galegroup.com>>.

Synopsis:

Judith Copler briefly highlights some striking features of the edition of the Gale Directory of Databases that she reviewed for Online, Inc. She remarks on the types of information included about various databases, producers, online services, and distributors. The benefits of alphabetical entries and briefer reviews are among improvements noticeable in Gale's new printed directory.

2. Reed, Lawrence L. "Gale Directory of Databases, 2 vols.." RQ (Fall 1993): 127. Book Review Index Plus. Infotrac. University of Maryland, College Park. 10 Oct 2006 <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com>>.
3. Burgard, Daniel, and Martha E. Williams. "New database products: Social science, humanities news and general (Issue 14)." Online & CD-ROM Review 22.5(Oct 1999): 271-282. Online Information Review. Proquest. <<http://proquest.umi.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu>>.

Cost of the resource [Give source of cost.]

- \$380.00(USD) Retail (Publisher) (*Books in Print*)

2 sample questions that might be posed by users and could be answered using this resource.

1. What can I use to find a listing of communications companies based in the United States?
2. Which vendors give access to the most sources?

Recommendation for purchase with brief justification.

- If I had no database directory to work with, I would order the latest version published, rather than waiting for the 2008 version to come out. The reviews suggested that a print version would be more useful for librarians at a reference desk, who would probably use this resource the most, so I do not think it would be necessary to attempt to obtain a CD-ROM version or a subscription (Reed 127). A printed version would also be easier to use concurrently while verifying or following up on the information related to Internet database this directory provides. The online version of the Gale Guide to Internet Databases "corresponds to the print publication Gale Guide to Internet Databases and the online Gale Directory of Online, Portable, and Internet Databases" and is updated biennially, but it seems like the print version is used more easily and costs less than a subscription to the entire Gale Research Shelf would (Burgard and Williams 272-273).

2. Complete Bibliographic Citation

- Facts on File World News CD-ROM [CD-ROM]. 1940-present. New York: Primedia, 1997.

Type of Resource and/or type of information:

- Almanacs, Yearbooks and Handbooks

Selection aids, guides, and/or other collections that include the resource. [You may include complete citations for aids and guides in introduction one time and refer by title in each entry.]

- Bopp & Smith

Currency and frequency of updates/issues.

- Print: Weekly, CD-ROM: Yearly, Online (through publisher at FACTS.com): Weekly

Scope of resource.

- Facts On File World News CD-ROM compiles and indexes a wide breadth of full-text news coverage in a fully searchable electronic format. It includes “articles of current international and national news, other world news, sports news, science, theater openings, awards, recent books, music, people of note and deaths” (Amazon.com). Facts on File News Services has released its Internet service, FACTS.com. The subscription site delivers 20 years of full-text news and interconnects seven core reference databases through a half-million internal hyperlinks. FACTS.com takes the content and design from the Facts on File World News CD-ROM and makes it available on the Web (Information Today 27).

Intended audience.

- Secondary School and College Libraries

Formats available for this title including an indication of the format(s) examined.

For electronic databases, include information regarding vendor information (DIALOG, NEXIS, Silver Platter, etc.).

- This almanac is available in print as a magazine subscription, on CD-ROM, or online via subscription from publisher.

A selected list of available reviews [list up to 3 reviews] of the resource and a synopsis of one of the existing reviews. If no reviews are found, write a brief review.

- Laguardia, Cheryl and Ed Tallent. “Facts on File World News CD-ROM.” Library Journal 123.2 (1 Feb 1998):122. Proquest. University of Maryland, College Park. 14 October 2006.
<<http://proquest.umi.com.proxyum.researchport.umd.edu/>>.

Synopsis:

For Cheryl Laguardia and Ed Tallent, the CD-ROM version of Facts on File World News has technological limitations that overshadow its positive attributes. Their review begins by disparaging the Netscape interface and the inability to update their electronic versions of the work online. However, they acknowledge that the publication offers excellent access to news coverage, citing the number of articles and other document types as evidence. Nonetheless, these Library Journal writers underscore the work’s technical problems with hopes for future improvement.

- “Facts on file news service site goes live.” Information Today 16.6 (Jun 1999): 37. Proquest. University of Maryland, College Park. 14 October 2006.
<<http://proquest.umi.com.proxyum.researchport.umd.edu/>>.
- Connolly, Bruce and Gail Golderman. “The Reference Suite@Facts.com.” Library Journal (Spring 2002): 48-52. Proquest. University of Maryland, College Park. 14 October 2006.
<<http://proquest.umi.com.proxyum.researchport.umd.edu/>>.

Cost of the resource [Give source of cost.]

- CD-ROM: \$995.00/Year (Library Journal), Print: \$1,127.50/Year (Amazon.com)

2 sample questions that might be posed by users and could be answered using this resource.

- Will I be able to find enough information on the Berlin Congo Conference to write my term paper?
- How much press coverage did the crisis in Darfur, Sudan receive when it first began?

Recommendation for purchase with brief justification.

- Due to cost and frequency of updates I would recommend purchasing the internet subscription-based version of Facts on File World News Digest bundled with the other resources available through the Reference Suite@FACTS.com. All reviews of its depth of coverage suggest that it would be a valuable resource, but could perhaps be left out a collection with overlapping resources.

3. Complete Bibliographic Citation

- The Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd Ed. 20 Vols. Ed. J. A. Simpson and E. S. Weiner. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993-1997.

Type of Resource and/or type of information:

- Dictionary

Selection aids, guides, and/or other collections that include the resource. [You may include complete citations for aids and guides in introduction one time and refer by title in each entry.]

- Bopp & Smith (See introduction.)
- UMD Libraries Website (See Introduction.)

Currency and frequency of updates/issues.

- Quarterly

Scope of resource.

- “Featuring more than 290,000 main entries, the OED is, perhaps, not unabridged in the conventional sense of the term, but adding in derivatives and phrases for “a total of 616,500 word forms.” This edition combines “all previous editions and supplements, adding some 5,000 new words, and standardizing all pronunciation using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)” (Booklist 1736).

Intended audience.

- Scholars and Professionals

Formats available for this title including an indication of the format(s) examined.**For electronic databases, include information regarding vendor information (DIALOG, NEXIS, Silver Platter, etc.).**

- The OED is available in print form, on CD-ROM, or online through the publisher. An online version includes the text of the 20-volume 2nd edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (1989), plus its 3-volume Additions Series (1993, 1997) and is available through annual subscription.

A selected list of available reviews [list up to 3 reviews] of the resource and a synopsis of one of the existing reviews. If no reviews are found, write a brief review.

- "The Oxford English Dictionary, 2d ed, 20 vols.." Booklist 01 Jun 1997: 1736. Book Review Index Plus. Infotrac. University of Maryland, College Park. 13 Oct 2006 <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com.proxyum.researchport.umd.edu>>.
- "The Oxford English Dictionary." The Economist (US) 1 Apr 1989: 79. Book Review Index Plus. Infotrac. University of Maryland, College Park. 13 Oct 2006 <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu>>.

Synopsis:

The Economist's review of the second edition of the Oxford English Dictionary discusses the past, present, and future of the work. It begins by giving a historical background of the origins and development of the Oxford English Dictionary. The second edition of the work integrates the materials in the first edition with its supplements and new features such as an improved interface and pronunciation guide. This edition remains less than optimal in spite of the time and effort put forth creating it. The review identifies lingering inconsistencies in the extent to which the OED includes a complete collection of words and phrases, updated definitions and pronunciations. The author logically speculates that revisions will continue with future electronic versions of the Oxford English Dictionary.

- Williams, Martha E. "New database products: Social science, humanities news and general (Issue 12)." Online & CD-ROM Review 22.5(Oct 1998): 323-336. Online Information Review. Proquest. University of Maryland, College Park. 15 Oct 2006. <<http://proquest.umi.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu>>.

Cost of the resource [Give source of cost.]

- For 2,500 - 4,999 users, \$850 + \$0.29 per user over 2,500 (OED Online)

2 sample questions that might be posed by users and could be answered using this resource.

1. What is the origin of the word "mathematics"?
2. How do you pronounce "rhinitis"?

Recommendation for purchase with brief justification.

- I would recommend purchasing the Oxford English Dictionary Online because it is comprehensive, recognizable, and heavily used by patrons of academic libraries. The online version would enable the maximum amount of users to access the resource.

4. Complete Bibliographic Citation

- Holidays and National Days, 2 vols. Ed. by Len Travers. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006.

Type of Resource and/or type of information:

- Encyclopedia

Selection aids, guides, and/or other collections that include the resource. [You may include complete citations for aids and guides in introduction one time and refer by title in each entry.]

- Bopp & Smith (See Introduction)

Currency and frequency of updates/issues.

- Current (Published in 2006)

Scope of resource.

- The Encyclopedia of American Holidays and National Days offers comprehensive coverage of holidays. "Essays, most of them signed, cover the history and politics of establishing holidays, from Puritan opposition to almost everything, to what changed Memorial Day from a Southern to a national observance. The editor arranges the contents in chronological order so that "each chapter includes a lengthy narrative history, bibliographic references, and a useful one-page list of highlights" (Altschiller 178).

Intended audience.

- Public and Academic Library Users, Undergraduate Students

Formats available for this title including an indication of the format(s) examined.

For electronic databases, include information regarding vendor information (DIALOG, NEXIS, Silver Platter, etc.).

- Print

A selected list of available reviews [list up to 3 reviews] of the resource and a synopsis of one of the existing reviews. If no reviews are found, write a brief review.

- Altschiller, Donald. "Encyclopedia of American Holidays and National Days, vols. 2." Library Journal (1 Sep 2006: 178). Book Review Index Plus. Infotrac. University of Maryland, College Park. 14 Oct 2006
<<http://infotrac.galegroup.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu> >.

Synopsis:

Writing in Library Journal, Donald Altschiller gives a brief, yet favorable review of the Encyclopedia of American Holidays and National Days. He describes the work's features and the depth of its contents, naming several holidays included as examples. Altschiller also addresses the encyclopedia's limited scope of coverage, ending with a somewhat hesitant recommendation for purchase.

- Stipek, Kathleen. "Encyclopedia of American Holidays and National Days." Booklist: 103.2 (15 Sep 2006): 90. Academic Search Premier. University of Maryland, College Park. 14 Oct 2006
<<http://search.ebscohost.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu/login> >.
- "Encyclopedia of American Holidays and National Days [Two Volumes]." International Press Publications Inc.: Markham, ON, 2006. 14 Oct 2006 <<http://ippbooks.com/store/product.php?productid=19731>>.

Cost of the resource [Give source of cost.]

- \$199.95 (Amazon.com)

2 sample questions that might be posed by users and could be answered using this resource.

- Do most nationally observed and government holidays have ties to religious holidays?
- Who declares the official date of newly established holidays?

Recommendation for purchase with brief justification

- After reading the reviews of this work, I would not recommend the Encyclopedia of American Holidays and National Days for an academic library in a medium sized institution of higher education. Booklist's Kathleen Stipek declares that the work is a "good resource for high schoolers in need of detailed information" while the Library Journal's review claims that "this work is an outstanding ready reference source for public and academic libraries" (Altschiller 178 and Stipek 90). The recently published book's multicultural elements and quality could justify its inclusion into the library's collection, but I would rather choose a more general work, such as Stephen G. Christianson's American Book of Days (Wilson, 2000, 4th ed.) or a similar work with a broader scope in terms of the quantity of holidays covered and countries considered.

Complete Bibliographic Citation

- Roper, G.J. and C. H. Bleaney. Index Islamicus: a bibliography of publications on Islam and the Muslim world since 1906. The Netherlands: Brill Academic Publishers, (1958-present).

Type of Resource and/or type of information:

- Bibliography

Selection aids, guides, and/or other collections that include the resource. [You may include complete citations for aids and guides in introduction one time and refer by title in each entry.]

- *Ulrichsweb.com*

Currency and frequency of updates/issues.

- Updated 3 times per year.

Scope of resource.

- Index Islamicus "provides a technically straightforward, easy-to-use guide to over 172,000 articles and over 24,000 books" (Auchterlonie 177). It "covers literature by and about the entire geographic scope of Islam, including Africa and South Asia as well as the Middle East" (Ulrichsweb.com). The print version is described as "a bibliography of books, articles and reviews on Islam and the Muslim world which were published in the year 2003, with the additions from 1993-2002" (Reference & Research Book News).

Intended audience.

- Scholars and Students

Formats available for this title including an indication of the format(s) examined.

For electronic databases, include information regarding vendor information (DIALOG, NEXIS, Silver Platter, etc.).

- Print, CD-Rom

A selected list of available reviews [list up to 3 reviews] of the resource and a synopsis of one of the existing reviews. If no reviews are found, write a brief review.

- Auchterlonie, Paul. "Index Islamicus on CD-ROM: A Bibliography of Publications on Islam and the Muslim World since 1906 by G. J. Roper, C. H. Bleaney." British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies 26.1 (May

1999): 176-177. JSTOR. University of Maryland, College Park. 15 Oct 2006. <<http://www.jstor.org.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu>>.

- “Index Islamicus; a bibliography of books, articles and reviews on Islam and the Muslim world which were published in the year 2003, with the additions from 1993-2002.” Reference & Research Book News. (Nov 2005) Book Reviews Index Plus. Infotrac. University of Maryland, College Park. 15 Oct 2006 <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu/>>.
- “Review.” Magazines for Libraries (4 Oct 2006) Ulrichsweb.com. University of Maryland, College Park. 15 Oct 2006. <http://ulrichsweb.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu/ulrichsweb/Search/fullCitation.asp?tab=6&navPage=1&serial_uid=36775&issn=00070815>.

Synopsis:

Paul Auchterlonie reviews the CD-ROM version of the Index Islamicus: a bibliography of publications on Islam and the Muslim world since 1906 in the British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies. He chooses to focus on the elements he perceives as improvements from the previous version and criticizes the continuing deficiencies and continuing deficiencies in this latest edition of the work. The strengths of the index lay in its international coverage of journals related to the Muslim world, and its ability to be navigated. However, problems with the subject index and a lack of uniform coverage for all years detract from the value of the work. Overall, Auchterlonie has a favorable attitude towards the 1998 CD-ROM version of the work, but sees the need for improvement.

Cost of the resource [Give source of cost.]

- CD-ROM:\$2500.00 (Powell's Books); \$1,299.00 per year for combined subscription to print and online versions (Ulrichsweb.com)

2 sample questions that might be posed by users and could be answered using this resource.

- Where can I find information about the languages on non-Muslim Turkic peoples?
- What sources give information on historical developments surrounding the role of women in Iraq?

Recommendation for purchase with brief justification.

- I would recommend the purchase of this work if my library collection lacked an extensive bibliographic resource for students of Middle Eastern or Muslim studies. If possible, I would obtain the latest edition of the electronic form in order to optimize ease of access and searches.

5. Complete Bibliographic Citation

- British Humanities Index. United States: Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA), 1915-. Quarterly.

Type of Resource and/or type of information:

- Indexes and Abstracts

Selection aids, guides, and/or other collections that include the resource. [You may include complete citations for aids and guides in introduction one time and refer by title in each entry.]

- Ulrichsweb.com, Bridge (See introduction)

Currency and frequency of updates/issues.

- (Print) Quarterly; (Electronic) Annually

Scope of resource.

- The British Humanities Index “indexes and abstracts humanities-related articles published by British newspapers and journals, covering “the arts, economics, history, philosophy, politics, religion and society” (Ulrichsweb.com).

Intended audience.

- Scholars

Formats available for this title including an indication of the format(s) examined.

For electronic databases, include information regarding vendor information (DIALOG, NEXIS, Silver Platter, etc.).

- Available in print, on CD-ROM as BHI Plus, or online as British Humanities Index (BHI) Net through CSA.

A selected list of available reviews [list up to 3 reviews] of the resource and a synopsis of one of the existing reviews. If no reviews are found, write a brief review.

- Gilroy, Susan. “British Humanities Index.” Magazines for Libraries (4 Oct 2006). Ulrichsweb.com. University of Maryland, College Park. 13 Oct 2006 <http://ulrichsweb.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu/ulrichsweb/Search/fullCitation.asp?tab=6&navP age=1&serial_uid=36775&issn=00070815>.

Synopsis:

In her review of the British Humanities Index, Susan Gilroy of Magazines for Libraries describes the range of materials the index covers and identifies characteristics of interest to those librarians uncertain of whether to include this work in their collections. She describes the index’s coverage of titles from the social sciences as a perhaps unexpected addition to its coverage of “literature, history, folklore, art, film, and music” (Gilroy). Finally, Gilroy discusses the sources of BHI’s materials and the formats available.

- “British Humanities Index.” American Book Review. New York: R. Sukenick, 1983 (Annual): 13.
- “British Humanities Index.” RQ 22 (Summer 1983): 386. Book Review Index Plus. Infotrac. University of Maryland, College Park. 13 Oct 2006 <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu/>>.

Cost of the resource [Give source of cost.]

- Print: \$1,525.00 per year (Ulrichsweb.com)

2 sample questions that might be posed by users and could be answered using this resource.

- What has been written about the history of NATO in scholarly journals?
- Who was involved in early efforts to allow women’s suffrage?

Recommendation for purchase with brief justification.

- I would recommend purchasing the print version of this index as a periodical subscription. It is feasible that users of a college academic library would be interested in articles indexed by this resource. If price was not a consideration, I would select a more comprehensive index such as the Arts and Humanities Citations Index, which is \$6490.00 per year (Ulrichsweb.com).