

BOOK REVIEW

Title: Information Sources, Services and Systems, Author: Dr. Gurdev Singh¹

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Reference and information services are considered as an important activity of a modern library. Reference service is one of the essential services provided by a library. It can be provided by means of various types of reference tools such as encyclopedias, dictionaries etc. These reference tools are important for providing reference service in the library. Reference librarian has to depend on these reference sources for providing effective reference service to the users.

There are some books available on information sources and services but there is no book which deals comprehensively with information sources, services and systems. This book provides an overview of various concepts in information sources and services. It covers wide range of information sources from documentary to non-documentary sources. It also includes different types of information services provided by various types of libraries. It provides sufficient knowledge about the various types of information sources and services along with latest trend and developments. The book under review is divided into four parts. It begins with an overview of various types of information sources.

Part one deals with various types of information sources both documentary and non-documentary. Documentary sources includes dictionaries, encyclopedias, ready reference sources, geographical sources, indexing and abstracting sources, bibliographies, patents, standards, statistical sources etc. Non documentary sources also include digital sources and internet as a source of information.

Part two deals with the various types of reference services. Reference services includes need, purpose and scope, ready reference and long range reference services, reference services in different types of libraries etc. It also includes important chapters related to organization of reference section and role of librarian/information officer in

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electronic environment.

Part three describes the wide range of information services such as translation, literature search, CAS, SDI, document delivery, various types of documentation centers, information literacy programmes, users and their information needs and computer based library services.

Part four deals with number of important information systems such as NISSAT, AGRIS, BIOSIS, and DEVSIS etc.

The language of the book is lucid. A number of diagrams and tables are provided in order to understand the text easily. Since the last few years there has been great demand from the students of library and information science to have a book of this kind which not only deals with theoretical aspects of information sources and services but also covers the practical aspects. This book has covered that gap and fulfilled the need of the serious readers who need to know the details about the various sources, services and information systems. For those who are less involved in that area, it is still a very useful book. It has been specially intended for the library science students, teachers, working librarians, information scientists, and informational professionals in general. It gives clear understanding of the concepts related to information sources, services and systems at local, national and international level. It is very useful for those who are involved in organization and management of reference section of a library. Also useful for those who are interested in keeping themselves acquainted with the latest trend and development in the field of library and information science.

Bibliography is useful for further studies. A list of further reading is also included at the end for those who wish to explore the various aspects in more depth. An alphabetical index is also provided at the end which refers to the number of sources and services mentioned in the text. The main feature of this book is that important questions related to the chapter are given at the end for the benefit of the students. The book is skillfully organized and presented. The typography, printing and quality of paper used is of international standard. The production quality of the book is very good.

In short, this book is packed with detailed information on information sources, services and systems and is very useful for anyone working in the field of library and information science.