

Sources About Books

Catalogs: Library & Union
Bibliographies: Trade, National, Subject
Web Bookstores & Electronic Publishing
Bibliographic Utilities
Reviews & Criticism
Reader's Advisory

sources about books

what are these resources for?

who wants books?

normal people

to read (popular fiction, literature, children's books, etc.)
to learn (non-fiction, popular and more scholarly)
by particular authors
on particular subjects (though perhaps quite generally)
they saw somewhere (on Oprah, in a magazine, in a bibliography)

who wants books?

librarians and professionals

for all the above reasons, for themselves as individuals
to help clients find books for all the above reasons, including to assist with reader's advisor
to assist in collection development activities
to verify publication or other details (bibliographic citation verification, for interlibrary loan or purchase purposes, for research)

what is a bibliography?

list of books

now extended to other media

discography

Webliography

collection of information about information, thus illustrative of lots of other genres/sources/tools

typically large sources (books); cf articles, facts, dates, etc

what is a bibliography for?

tied to organization function: we organize books into bibliographies, catalogs, etc., to facilitate search and access

these have traditionally been professional-level tools used for bibliographic verification/correct citation, purchase, ILL, collection development, readers advisory, looking for a book about/by/from

understanding a collection, usually for a specific purpose

what is "bibliography"?

critical and historical study of books

- enumerative (list)
- analytical or critical (as physical objects, condition)
- descriptive (detailed, standardized viz publisher's catalog)
- textual (relationship of text to bibliographic aspects)
- historical (history of the book, study of bibliographies)

medieval

understanding a body of knowledge

kinds of sources about books

bibliographies

trade

subject

national

catalogs & union lists

Web bookstores

utilities

reviews

reader's advisory

questions

1. When is Stephen King's newest book coming out?
2. Are there any modern or contemporary prose renderings of the Canterbury Tales?
3. I'm writing a paper on Marlowe's *Dido, Queen of Carthage*, and need three critical sources about it.
4. I've read through all the Isaac Asimov Foundation books; what can you suggest for me now?
5. I'm starting a research project on the images of refugees in Canadian literature over the last 20 years. Can you help me?
6. I'm looking for a chronology of the civil rights movement.
7. I need a good general book about diabetes.

questions

6. I'm looking for a chronology of the civil rights movement.

UW library catalog

catalog (local, union)

maintain intellectual control and integrity of a library's collection, provide access

basic information, location, availability

good for lots of basic questions, esp within an institutional setting

MARC records standard

questions

1. When is Stephen King's newest book coming out?

Books in Print (but really Amazon)

trade bibliography

facilitating purchase, largely for the trade

questions

5. I'm starting a research project on the images of refugees in Canadian literature over the last 20 years. Can you help me?

Canadiana: the Canadian National Bibliography

national bibliography

fuzzy concept

also *NUC* (now effectively LC catalog), *NUC Pre-1956*

Imprints

questions

5. I'm starting a research project on the images of refugees in Canadian literature over the last 20 years. Can you help me?

subject bibliography

thousands upon thousands, scholarly to leaflets
bringing together list of works *on a topic, for an audience*
comprehensive, selective (both?)
found, often, by other means (via catalog, OCLC, Web search, etc)

questions

7. I need a good general book about diabetes.
amazon.com, bn.com, etc

web bookstore

buying books (duh) but lotsa other stuff too
specialized ones for OOP (alibris, abebooks)

questions

2. Are there any modern or contemporary prose renderings of the Canterbury Tales?

OCLC WorldCat

bibliographic utility

bibliographic verification, interlibrary loan, copy cataloging
difficult, obscure, rare, variant

metadata

why is the metadata in these sources so specific and detailed?

questions

3. I'm writing a paper on Marlowe's *Dido, Queen of Carthage*, and need three critical sources about it.

Literature Resource Center (online version of *Literary Criticism* series)

reviews & criticism

also *Book Review Digest*, *Book Review Index*, newspapers, magazines, scholarly journals

questions

4. I've read through all the Isaac Asimov Foundation books; what can you suggest for me now?

What Do I Read Next?, nancypearl.com, NoveList, etc

readers' advisory

why are advice and guidance important parts of professional information work with resources?

the story

for a purpose

understanding a body of knowledge and how it is recorded
(in books)

As "books" become increasingly digital in nature, how will these resources change? Can you imagine what the next generation of resources might look like or do?

What would (will) it mean to have access to the full text of every book ever written?

evaluation

Do you have questions about the authority, accuracy, timeliness, trustworthiness, etc. of any of these resources? Why?

we typically evaluate on criteria such as authority, scope, arrangement (here, dictionary v. classified), format, currency/frequency/timeliness, special features, etc. . . all of which are still valid

some, of course, are **beyond evaluation**
and is the best **meeting its purpose?**

a couple others to know and love

librarians, curiosities & grotesques

- *Bowker Annual*
- *Guide to Reference* (nee *Books, Sources*, whatever)
- *ARBA*
- *Bibliographic Index*
- *Public Library Catalog*