

LIBR 210
Reference and Information Services
Prof. Mengxiong Liu

REFERENCE TOOLS/SOURCES EXERCISE (20%)

Name Janet Hansen

Use the Source List for Assignment to answer the following reference questions. Write the number of the source you choose with its title in the blank, e.g. "1. Books in Print". There may be more than one source that can answer the question, but choose only ONE best answer. Each question is worth 0.5 points.

1. What is the latest edition of Katz's *Introduction to Reference Works* published in 2002 and who is the publisher? 1. *Books in Print*
2. I recently read an interesting profile of one of the founders of Wikipedia in *Reason* magazine. Please locate this article for me. __21 *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* _____
3. I'm responsible for building a new magazine reading room in a school, what magazines should I collect? ____8. *Magazines for Libraries* _____
4. Is there an Italian language newspaper published in Buffalo? __6. *Gale Directory of Publications and Broadcasting* _____
5. How to find an abstract of Dr. Mengxiong Liu's doctoral research? __34. *Dissertation Index*
6. Current subscription price for the periodical *Whole Earth Review*. __5. *Ulrich's Periodicals Directory* _____
7. I like to watch a video on how to build a dog house. __13. *King Library Catalog* _____
8. A student needs literary criticism information on *Sense and Sensibility*. __27. *MLA Bibliography* _____
9. Where to see listings of articles on biology likely to be researched by undergraduates? _____32. *Biological Abstracts* _____
10. A professor wants to find out how many other people are doing the research on the same topic in last 5 years. In fact, he is particularly interested in knowing how many

people have cited his classical paper published 5 year ago. ____35. *Citation Index/Web of Science*_____

11. I'm looking for a few latest reference books on environment, which are worth buying for my college library. __16.
*Choice*_____

12. A community leader wants to launch an innovative educational project and looks for funding resources. ____79. *Foundation Directory/Grant Register*_____

13. Do you have a list of tidal waves for 1988? __64. *Info. Please Almanac*_____

14. How many people drove alone or carpoled to work, and what is the alcoholism rate in the US in 2007? ____66. *Statistical Abstract of the US*_____

15. Who supply metal pails in the United States? I need the contact information of the manufacturers or suppliers. _____82. *Thomas Register of American Manufacturers*_____

16. I need the address of the US embassy in Malaysia. ____65. *Statesman's Yearbook*_____

17. Nelson Mandela - where did he grow up and go to school? ____97. *Encyclopedia of World Biography*_____

18. My nephew lost his right arm in an accident; is there a group for people who have similar disabilities that he could talk to? ____38.
*Wikipedia*_____

19. I need a word to express a color: yellowness & orangeness. ____58. *Roget's Intl Thesaurus*_____

20. How do I cite the references that I used in my paper? My teacher requires APA style. ____56. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Society*_____

21. A patron wants to know the side effects of a prescription drug *Hepsera*. ____73.
*Physician's Desk Reference*_____

22. My friend is involved in a divorce lawsuit case. She wants to find out the most recent divorce cases for reference. How can I help her? ____ 31.
Lexis/Nexis _____
23. Any information about a French movie star Patricia Gozzi. She was in a few movie during late 50's, but then she disappeared. ____ 88. *Biography Index* _____
24. Where should I look to see if *Human Events*, the conservative magazine is indexed anywhere? Is it refereed? ____ 5.
Ulrich's _____
25. Do you have any information on the latest discussion of the teaching methods of English as a Second Language? _____ 26. *Education Full Text* _____
26. A patron comes to the reference desk for career advice. She is wondering between nursing and librarianship. You are supposed to give her information on the nature of the work and employment opportunities of the two careers. ____ 75. *Occupational Handbook* _____
27. I want find a color flag of Uruguay, a tiny little country in South America. __ 64. *Info. Please Almanac* _____
28. A high school student needs to make a decision on which university to apply for. He wants to look at some of the course catalogs and course descriptions for a few universities. 84 . *College Blue Book* _____
29. How many operas did Mozart ever composed? Can you name some of them? __ 45
New Grove's Music Dictionary _____
30. What state is Cedar County located? ____ 99. *Columbia Gazeteer of North America* _____
31. Who is the CEO or Oracle company? ____ 83. *Million Dollar Directory* _____
32. A vocational school in Silicon Valley? ____ 81. *Local Phone Book* _____
33. A man comes to the reference desk claiming he has written a mystery book and asking where he can publish his book. ____ 80. *Literary Marketplace* _____
34. How many Republican and Democrat House Representatives from California, and a map of congressional district in CA? ____ 85. *Congressional Directory* _____

35. What does IEEE stand for? ___ 62. *Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations* _____

36. Where is IEEE located? _____ 78. *Associations Unlimited* _____

37. Is “school” – meaning a group of fish – one of these old words of collective nouns from the Middle Ages? _____ 50. *Oxford English Dictionary* _____

38. Were there library conferences in the US before the one in 1876 when ALA was founded? _____ 22. *Academic Search Premier* _____

Use less than 10 sentences to answer the following questions (sources are not limited to the Source List):

39. What are the possible sources to find out about Harry Truman? Which one is the best? Why?

To find out about Harry Truman, we might use an Encyclopedia: 36, *Encyclopedia Americana*; 37, *Encyclopedia Britannica*; or 39, *The World Book Encyclopedia*, which would all provide general biographies and assessments of this president. We might also use 92, *Who Was Who in America*, 87, *Cambridge Biographical Encyclopedia*, or 97, *The Encyclopedia of World Biography*. We could gain information less general but still useful from 74, *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, since Truman is the author of many frequently quoted aphorisms, or 69, Famous first Facts, because of his involvement with the dropping of the atomic bomb. The question as phrased is very general and indicates a need for basic information rather than scholarly research or lengthy biographies, which leads away from resources such as 86, *Biographical Resources Center*, but also seems to call for more information than may be provided in *Who Was Who* or either the *Cambridge* or *Encyclopedia of World Biography*. One of the multi-volume encyclopedias would be the best choice. The *Americana*. Published now by Scholastic, seems aimed at younger users. The *Britannica*, while magnificent, can be dense and challenging. Since the age and ability of the user is unknown, the *World Book*, a solid ‘family use’ encyclopedia, will be the best place to start this research.

40. I’m building a reference collection for my small branch public library, where should I start? What is the best selection aid? Why?

To build a reference collection for my small public library, I might use 4, *American Reference Books Annual*, 18, *RUSA Best Source Issue*, or 3, *Guide to Reference*. All these guides would help me in evaluating individual purchasing choices; helping me choose the best among available options. *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, and *School Library Journal* could also offer such support, as well as occasionally providing articles on collection building for reference. Overall, however, 9, *Reference Sources for Small and*

Medium Libraries is my best choice. First, it is meant as a selection tool guide for collection development. Its preface mentions that it “intends to serve as an authoritative buying guide” for both new and developing collections. Next, it is focused on libraries of my size, while other sources may give recommendations based on needs or resources I do not have. Finally, it is published by the ALA, which assures its relevance and quality.