

## REFERENCE TO REFERENCES

THE USE OF BOOKS AND LIBRARIES, compiled by Raymond H. Shove, Blanche E. Moen, Frederick Wezeman, and Harold G. Russell. Tenth ed. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1963. 122pp. \$1.75

Although the compilers state that the new edition, like its predecessors, is intended primarily as a guide for use in courses in library instruction for undergraduates, this compact bibliography could also be helpful to scholars needing a quick run-down on leading reference works in fields other than their own.

Containing 580 titles, it covers what the compilers consider the most outstanding sources of information in eight subject areas, as well as certain important bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, yearbooks and manuals, and government publications, to which a section each is devoted. Each section is subdivided, and each entry annotated at some length to give the main features of the book. The general sections are likely to be particularly useful to laymen; there are few subject specialists who, when need arises, can find unaided the principal sources for biographical information, or who know their way around among a variety of encyclopedias and dictionaries.

This, the tenth edition, has been enlarged by some 190 titles. Yet even with these editions, it is difficult to reduce the wealth of important reference books to such a small number. In any selective bibliography, certain titles are bound to be omitted which a reviewer might wish to include. For example, in the section, "Periodicals and Newspapers," Theodore Peterson's definitive study of the contemporary magazine in the United States, Magazines in the Twentieth Century, is not mentioned. Nevertheless, the value of this little book to the novice who needs a starting point is considerable. The compilers are to be commended for making available in compact form a wealth of information on reference books and libraries.

-- Eleanor Blum

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Eleanor Bloom

University of Illinois