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# A review of "The Medical Library Association's Master Guide to Authoritative Resources in the Health Sciences"

Denise O'Shea  
*Montclair State University*

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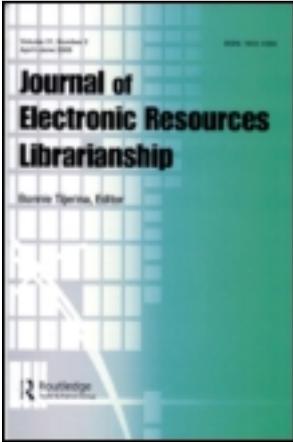
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### A Review of "The Medical Library Association's Master Guide to Authoritative Resources in the Health Sciences"

Denise O'Shea <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ

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is an excellent source of advice and inspiration. For those who are simply interested in the future of academic libraries, it also offers much food for thought.

Jane Monson  
Truman State University  
Kirksville, MO

L. L. Thompson, et. al., Eds. 2011. *The Medical Library Association's Master Guide to Authoritative Resources in the Health Sciences*. New York, NY: Neal-Schuman, 659 pp. ISBN: 9781555707194.

Maintaining a health sciences collection that is accurate, dependable, and up to date can be a difficult and expensive process for the medical librarian. The *Medical Library Association's Master Guide to Authoritative Resources in the Health Sciences* is an excellent collection development tool for medical libraries and for anyone developing health sciences collections that can help with this process. It updates the iconic *Brandon-Hill Selected List of Print Books and Journals for the Small Medical Library*, which ceased publication in 2003 and set the bar for offering reliable recommendations to the best medical literature available. The Medical Library Association (MLA) guide grew out of a suggestion made during a meeting of the MLA Books panel and describes more than 2,000 titles in the health sciences, chosen based on quality and importance to the health care profession. While the *Brandon-Hill* list was a very valuable publication, its intended audience was the small hospital library and its primary focus was on clinical literature. The *Master Guide* expands on the *Brandon-Hill Selected List* to include works in the basic sciences and publications available in digital and online formats including multimedia titles. Thus, it appeals to a much broader audience. However, it is important to note that the MLA Guide is not a comprehensive bibliography; rather, the guide's selectors were limited to a maximum of 10 of the most important monographs and 10 of the best serials in their discipline.

The 108 contributors were selected for their knowledge and expertise in their various specialties. The majority are librarians, many with additional professional qualifications. The contributors are affiliated with the American Hospital Association, the American Nurses Association, and many others and work at noteworthy academic medical centers, universities, community colleges, hospitals, specialty schools (such as dentistry, veterinary, optometry, chiropractic, and osteopathic), research institutes, and the National Institutes of Health and the National Library of Medicine. The contributors consulted familiar tools such as *Doody's Core Titles* and *Doody's Review Service*, among others, to assist them with the selection and evaluation of titles.

The editors have compiled a unique guide encompassing 200 health science topics, including basic sciences and emerging disciplines, that covers both monograph and serials titles. Chapters are arranged loosely by the National Library of Medicine's Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) schedules. The book covers a wide range of specialties, including environmental health, biomedical engineering, orthopedics, pharmacology, anatomy, ethics, health education, veterinary medicine, and many others. Many sections also include sub-specialties; medicine, for instance, covers 15 categories, including adolescent medicine, sports medicine, geriatrics, tropical medicine, and more. Chapters begin with topic definitions either from MeSH, *Stedman's Medical Dictionary* (28th ed.) or one supplied by

the topic contributor. Sections include general works related to the discipline, along with specialized topics such as anatomy, physiology, diseases, pathology, diagnosis, and therapy as appropriate. Each entry includes bibliographic information, URLs for online versions, and an annotation with the scope and coverage of the work. Some annotations mention mobile device compatibility, but because this market changes so rapidly, this information was not routinely included. Each annotation indicates whether the resource is appropriate for academic collections, hospital collections, and/or consumer health collections. The majority of the titles are appropriate for an academic medical library, and all titles should be currently available. Because of the scope of this book, only a few titles of primary interest to consumers have been included. A general reference chapter offers bibliographic sources for monographs and journals, indexing and database resources, dictionaries, guides to statistics, directories and biographical sources, and grant sources.

Collection development librarians in academic, hospital, and public libraries can rely on the *Medical Library Association's Master Guide to Authoritative Resources in the Health Sciences* for quality recommendations. The MLA guide will also be an indispensable tool for physicians, residents, students, researchers, and health care professionals and those trying to determine the best health sciences resource for their needs. According to the publisher, there is a companion online version of the *Master Guide* that will be updated regularly with new edition information, and it is expected that a new print version will be published on a regular basis.

Denise O'Shea  
Montclair State University  
Montclair, NJ

Andromeda Yelton. 2012. *Bridging the Digital Divide with Mobile Services*. Chicago, IL: ALA TechSource, 34 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8389-5856-8.

This short yet succinct pamphlet on offering mobile services to diverse and disparate communities is packed full of information and helpful suggestions in its brief 34 pages. The author begins by using data from the Pew Internet and American Life Project and the Mobile Access 2010 report to lay the foundation for some very interesting statistics regarding smartphone users. When discussing the digital divide among cell phone users, the results are very interesting: Cell phones are good for social connection, entertainment, and some forms of current awareness but are awful for civic engagement and research. The author mentions many government, school, and even library websites are hostile in the way that they work with cell phones and smartphones. This pamphlet is meant to assist in alleviating this problem.

To begin, the author discusses how to create user-friendly mobile portals. A few examples are provided of best practices, and then plugins, tools, and style sheets are examined. Issues such as small screen size, low bandwidth, lack of mouse, and video iffy are described, and questions to ask when picking a tool to use are detailed. An annotated list of resources follows. The next chapter addresses other ways to provide mobile services to diverse populations. Services such as audiobooks, texting, and e-reader lending are described, with best practices provided. In the final chapter, innovative services to underserved populations are examined, including augmented reality tools, curation of local media, and content creation