

REFERENCE NOTES

A program of the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office (HESO) at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

December 1999

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Knowledge Access Management for Reference Librarians

Knowledge Access Management, metadata, Dublin Core, CORC – what do all these words have to do with reference services? For 2 ½ days in November, a group of 17 librarians from 4 states attended the MINITEX-sponsored OCLC Institute’s Knowledge Access Management for Reference Librarians to explore the answer to that question. The seminar was led by Martin Dillon, Executive Director of the OCLC Institute. The seminar challenged us to think about reference services in the changing contexts of social, economic, political and technological environments. The message that we, as librarians, can accomplish more working together rather than separately, was strongly emphasized.

Knowledge access management is characterized as a combining of cataloging and reference objectives to optimize the access to increasing amounts of information in a variety of formats. We were introduced to the idea of metadata (information about information); resource description (structured information about information); and mark up systems (defining structural properties of “documents” or information). We were also introduced to the idea that resource descriptions can be imbedded in the resource itself, for instance a Web page.

Specifically, we were introduced to the Dublin Core metadata element set being developed by OCLC, which is a proposed set of elements created to define electronic resources. The Dublin Core elements for electronic resources are analogous to the MARC record fields for print and AV resources. We were given the opportunity to catalog a Web page using the Dublin Core elements and submit it to a practice database in CORC (Cooperative Online Resource Catalog). Using the CORC database we also were able to create pathfinders of Web sites on a particular subject. The intent of the Dublin Core and CORC initiatives is to provide a more accurate way to search for electronic resources on the Web that will be superior to any of the search engines currently available.

The last part of the seminar was devoted to working together to analyze trends and develop action plans for reference services. In light of some of the information presented in the seminar, there were lively discussions about how librarians can have an impact on knowledge management in the future.

If you would like more information about the Dublin Core see the OCLC Web site: wysiwyg://136/http://purl.oclc.org/dc/

INFORMATION BITS

Holiday Closings

The MINITEX office will be closed for the holidays:

Friday, December 24

Monday, December 27

Friday, December 31



Upcoming workshops

MINITEX will be sponsoring 2 consecutive “Consumer Health Resources” workshops on February 7, 2000. See insert if you’re interested in registering!

MLAC move date

The MINITEX office will be making their move to the new MN Library Access Center (Elmer L. Andersen Library) on Dec. 28, 1999.

Position Opening

See position announcement for a MINITEX Reference Services librarian on the insert!

Web Reference Request Form Problems

If you're having problems when sending reference requests via the MINITEX Reference Web form, be sure to read this!

After sending a request over the Web, if you do not see a screen that says "Request Sent", the request probably did not go through. If this is the case please do not hesitate to contact us.

Some problems are occurring when the "not needed after" date is entered incorrectly. The request will not be accepted when "ASAP" or "open" or any text is entered in that field. If you are entering a "not needed after" date, it must follow the "mm/dd/yy" format. For example, if the request is needed by December 30, 1999, it should be entered as "12/30/99". You will need to enter the slashes between the numbers.



MINITEX Reference **will not** be moving to the new Elmer L. Andersen library so there will be no disruption in reference service during the week of December 28, 2000.

Reference Notes

MINITEX Library Information Network
University of Minnesota, S-33 Wilson Library
309 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0414

Reference Phone.....612-624-4150, WATS 800-462-5348
Main/Reference Fax.....612-624-4508

Beccone, Jean.....612-626-9843, becco001@tc.umn.edu
Friedmann, Beth.....612-624-7873, fried004@tc.umn.edu
Parker, Mary.....612-624-1024, m-park1@tc.umn.edu

Main Website.....www-minitex.lib.umn.edu
Reference Email.....ref@othello.lib.umn.edu
Office Hours.....Mon-Fri., 8:00am-4:30pm
Reference Intake Form.....
.....http://kinglear.lib.umn.edu/reference/refdb

PRINT RESOURCES

The following are a few examples of new reference books at the University of Minnesota Libraries and Minneapolis Public Library that focus on holidays, celebrations, and calendars.

World holiday, festival, and calendar books, edited by Tanya Gulevich (Wils Ref GT3930.W67x 1998, ISBN:0780800737)

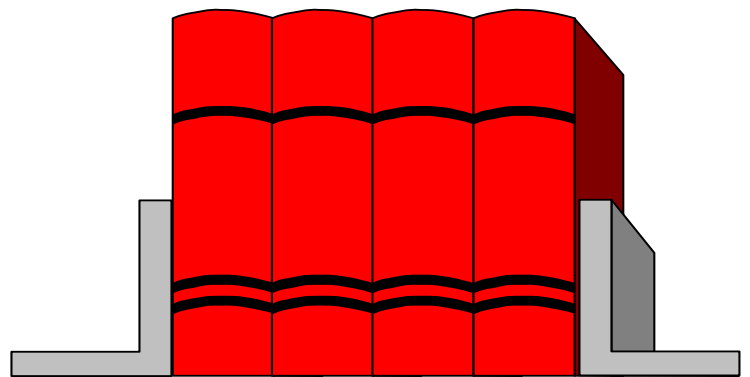
This is an annotated bibliography of more than 1,000 books on contemporary and historic religious, folk, ethnic, and national holidays, festivals, celebrations, holy days, commemorations, seasonal celebrations, and calendar systems from around the world. The book is arranged by topic and supplemented by descriptive lists of periodicals, associations, and web sites. It is indexed by author, title, and subject.

Holiday Symbols, edited by Sue Ellen Thompson (Wils Ref GT3930.T48 1998, ISBN:0780800729)

This is a guide to the legend and lore behind the people, places, foods, animals, and other symbols associated with holidays and holy days, feasts and fasts, and other celebrations. It covers popular, ethnic, religious, national, and ancient events that are observed in the United States, as well as around the world. It includes bibliographical reference and an index.

Religious holidays and calendars: an encyclopedic handbook, edited by Karen Bellenir (Wils Ref CE6.R45 1998, ISBN:0780802586)

This reference book contains an overview of the time-keeping and holiday traditions of the world's religions. It also describes the primary holy days and festivals of minority religions as practiced in the U.S. or in the country of origin. It contains bibliographic references, as well as a "master" index, an index that lists holidays alphabetically and one that lists them chronologically. In the appendix is a list of Internet sources for more information on religious calendars.



WEB SITE HITS

Since holidays are abundant this time of year, we thought we would focus this section on Web sites dedicated to holidays, calendars, and celebrations.

“World Wide Holiday and Festival Site” <http://www.HolidayFestival.com/Introduction.html>

This site contains information on national and religious holidays. It allows you to search alphabetically by country. Holidays are separated into two categories: public holidays and moveable feasts. Moveable holidays are listed by religion and the rest are alphabetical by country. The site contains many helpful hotlinks so it is easy to move around within it. For example, religions are hotlinked to holiday calendars and vice versa. By clicking on “This Month” you can view a calendar listing of holidays around the world. The site’s Webmaster has tried to make the site as comprehensive as possible. On the introductory page, the Webmaster urges people to forward any information about holidays the site may be lacking.

“World Dates Archive” <http://www.dailyglobe.com/day2day.html>

This is a database of important dates and holidays listed by month. It is set up as a table for each day of the year and divided into twelve months. You can either browse by month or look up a specific date. This site also contains information about each month, as well as information about moveable date holidays. The moveable holidays section also lists what country celebrates particular holidays. Within each month the site contains a calendar of weekly holidays. For example, the first week of December is Christmas Tree Week. If you do not have *Chase’s Annual Events* handy, this is the site for you.

“Calendar and Clock Page” <http://www.panix.com/~wlinden/calendar.shtml>

This site contains an overwhelming amount of information on all things relating to calendars, dates, holidays, and time. You can find today’s date on Hebrew, Chinese, Muslim, Hindu, Coptic, Indian, and many, many more calendars. This site contains a large section on celestial data which includes moon phases, planetary positions, and much more. Within the “countdown” section you can calculate how many days, hours, minutes and seconds until an upcoming holiday or event. Other categories contained in this site are “special clocks”, “this day” sites, and “historical calendars.”

“The American Secular Holidays Calendar” <http://www.smart.net/~mmontes/ushols.html>

This site calculates when federal holidays and other widely celebrated days fall for any given year after 1776. It also includes dates for daylight savings. This page links to official rules for federal holidays contained within the U.S. Code and Code of Federal Regulations. It also links to current banking holidays and the ecclesiastical calendar.

“The Jewish Year” <http://www.vjholidays.com/vjholidaysindex.htm>

This site contains information on holidays in the Jewish calendar, including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, Pesach, Holocaust Day, Israeli Independence Day, Shavuot, Elul, and more. It also contains links to information relating to travel, living, history, and the Torah. It offers recipes, songs, stories, and crafts, as well as a kids section, a bookstore, and blessings in Real Audio. “The Jewish Year” Web site is part of Virtual Jerusalem, a Jewish on-line community site in operation since Jerusalem Day, May 17, 1996.

“Daily Bleed” <http://www.eskimo.com/~recall/bleed/calmast.htm>

The Daily Bleed is a “calendar of eclectic events, public secrets”, and more. It even contains noteworthy dates for fictional characters. After selecting a date, you get a list of events for that day in world history. The events are listed in chronological order. Each separate date page has links to related sources, and in some cases, graphics. This calendar is updated daily. By using the *Google* search engine, you can search by name or event. This site is maintained by the staff of Recollection Used Books in Seattle, Washington. It is an anarchist and used books bookstore.

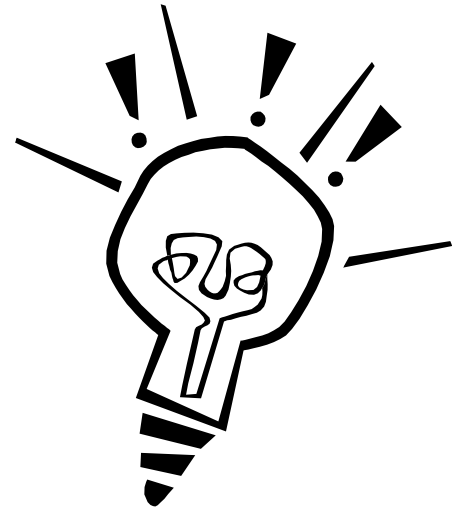
“The Calendar Zone” <http://www.calendarzone.com/>

This is a “comprehensive categorized calendar catalog”. It contains links to celestial, cultural, holiday, historic, geographic, women, reform, interactive calendars, and much more. You may have known it by its former name “CalendarLand.” The geographic section links you to city and state calendar of events. It also contains a link to calendar quotes and poetry.



REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Occasionally, MINITEX Reference Services receives a request for a poem, quotation, picture, story or something that cannot be found by checking standard sources. The Reference staff would like to appeal to the collective memory of MINITEX participants for assistance. Please forward any leads on the following questions to Reference Services at: **612-624-4150 or 800-462-5348**. Here is what we are looking for:



Looking for a speech “Reflections Before the Lincoln Memorial” by Josephine Hohlfe. (374)

Looking for a humorous verse from a greeting card about “When I am eighty” that has a line about being able to spill water without anyone caring. (515)

Looking for information about the wildlife artist Fred Sweeney. (530)

Looking for a poem or essay “Dey Wouldn’t Gossip” by Ardis Holmen (this spelling may be incorrect) for a speech declamation contest. (570)

Looking for contact information for contemporary artist Erika Perce. She works in glass and may live in California or Colorado. (628)

Who said the following quote: “Now that the revolution is over, all that remains is the war.” (664)

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University of Minnesota

S-33 Wilson Library

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Minneapolis, MN 55455-0414



do you think about *Reference Notes*?

great reference books



topics you would like addressed

fantastic web sites



spotlight on your
reference library

We would like to know what you would like to see in upcoming *Reference Notes*. Please either call us at 800-462-5348, send us an e-mail (see page 2 for addresses), or fill in your comments below and mail this form to MINITEX Reference.

Terrific web sites, reference books, and other sources you use:

Comments / Suggestions:

Name: (optional) _____

Library: (optional) _____ Phone: (optional) _____

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MINITEX Library Information Network
University of Minnesota
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309 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0414**

1999 EVENTS CALENDAR

- June 5-10 **Special Library Association** will be holding their annual conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Please see their web site for more information: www.sla.org/conf/99conf/index.shtml
- June 16 **Academic Library Advocacy Day** at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN
- July 2, 1999 **National Literacy Day** Contact: Focus on Literacy, Inc., P.O. Box 504, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021