

SEVENTH EDITION

Reference and Information Services

AN INTRODUCTION

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Chapter 13: Ready-Reference Sources

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Review Questions

1. What is a ready-reference source and what are some general strategies for developing a strong ready-reference collection? Provide 2-3 examples of queries that a librarian could answer using ready-reference sources.
2. Briefly explain the difference between the main types of ready-reference sources (encyclopedias, dictionaries, almanacs, and specialized subject sources). For each type of ready-reference source, provide an example of when it would be most useful.
3. What are the benefits to adding a major reference aggregator database to your library? How do they differ from a standard search engine?
4. The library is a place for accessing all types of information, including local sources. What are some ways a librarian can prepare to manage questions related to local knowledge?

Strengthen Your Understanding

To strengthen your understanding of this chapter, be sure to complete the activities and answer the questions for reflection and discussion in Box 13.2 Comparing Ready-Reference Titles on page 328, Box 13.3 Mind Map Practice on page 342, and Box 13.4 Database versus Search Engine on page 345.