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Gary Shook
Grace University

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WEB ACQUISITIONS & COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Gary Shook,
Head Librarian,
Grace University Library,
Omaha, Nebraska

This article and webography is based on a workshop of the same title presented at the 1999 ACL Annual Conference. It discusses the growing number of resources on the World Wide Web that may be useful for doing acquisitions and collection development. It begins by introducing librarians to AcqWeb, an excellent site for librarians who do acquisitions and collection development. Then representative web sites which may be useful as verification tools, review sources, collection development resources or in finding out-of-print materials are listed in an annotated webography.

How librarians do acquisitions and collection development is being changed by the World Wide Web. ACQWEB, a World Wide Web site providing links to online resources for acquisitions and collection development librarians, is an excellent gateway to a growing number of web resources that are useful for this library function. Online bookstores such as AMAZON.COM provide free access to verification tools for finding complete bibliographic information on both books (in print and recently out-of-print) and some audiovisual materials. A recent article in *College and Research Libraries News* entitled "Collectiondevelopment.com: using Amazon.com and other online bookstores for collection development" discussed ways in which online bookstores could be used for collection development.

Most publishers and jobbers have web sites, and the amount of informa-

tion which is useful for collection development is increasing. More and more publishers and distributors are putting almost their entire inventories on their web sites, which may be searched by their clients. Besides doing simple author and title searches, some web sites have keyword searching capability and the ability to browse titles by subject. Besides the basic bibliographic information needed for ordering, some sites are adding summaries, brief excerpts from the books, information on the author, pictures of the book cover, and in some cases table of contents are available. Ordering directly from their web sites is an option in many cases.

For those who still prefer to have reviews of materials being ordered, there are a number of free web sites where book reviews may be obtained. As listed on the webography below, BOOKWIRE is a site that will lead you to thousands of book reviews at free web sites. For libraries using *Choice Magazine* reviews, the cost of a subscription to *ChoiceReviews.online* provides access to a searchable database of over 70,000 reviews plus value-added services such as email notification of new titles in your personalized profile.

Online catalogs of similar libraries, the Library of Congress, or union catalogs such as *WorldCat* or *FirstSearch* may also be used for collection development as these catalogs can be searched to find titles on particular subjects. Web sites such as ERIC ONLINE BIBLIOGRAPHIES

are another type of web site which may be used for collection development. Finally, the world wide web is making it possible to locate out-of-print materials easier than in the past. As stated in the "Out-of-print, Rare and Antiquarian Agents" section of ACQWEB: "Agents (also known as bots, robots, and spiders) use software to search vast amounts of data — in this case multiple Web sites of antiquarian vendors and booksellers. Thus, with one search, you can in seconds simultaneously check the inventory of dozens of booksellers for a particular title or author." (Both the ACQWEB site and the Intervarsity Press site listed on the Webography have links to a number of excellent sites for searching out-of-print books. †

1. Monica Fusich, "Collection-development.com: using Amazon.com and other online bookstores for collection development" *College and Research Libraries News* 59 no.9 (October 1998): 659-661.

¹AcqWeb. Vanderbilt Law Library. 5 October 1999.
<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/law/acqs/verif.rare.html>

A WEBOGRAPHY

ACQWEB:

<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/law/acqs/>
"AcqWeb is a World Wide Web site providing links to information and resources of interest to librarians with acquisitions or collection development responsibilities."

VERIFICATION TOOLS AND RESOURCES

AMAZON.COM: <http://www.amazon.com/>
Amazon.com has one of the largest, if not the largest, selection of books along with music and video titles on the web. It has search engines which allow you to search by author, title and subject. Its full ordering information along with some reviews, excerpts and brief summaries make it a valuable verification tool.

BOOKS-OUT-OF-PRINT:

<http://www.bowker.com/bop/home/boop.html>
"This valuable resource brings you elusive o.p. information and allows you to identify

and verify the status of more than 1.3 million titles that have lapsed into o.p. or o.s.i. status since 1979 to the present."

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN PUBLISHER'S ASSOCIATION:

<http://www.ecpa.org/ECPA/Members/index.html>
This site provides directory information on evangelical publishers in the U.S. including links to their web sites when available.

BAKER BOOK HOUSE

<http://www.bakerbooks.com>
"Baker Book House Company is a leading evangelical publisher offering more than 200 releases per year in its five separate divisions." This is an example of a publisher which allows individuals to search their inventory of books on their web site.

CHRISTIAN BOOK DISTRIBUTORS:

<http://www.christianbook.com>
This vendor provides a good search engine to their entire inventory of approximately 60,000 titles of Christian books and media. This is a site where you can find some recently out-of-print titles of Christian books including scholarly titles.

REVIEW SOURCES

BAKER & TAYLOR ACADEMIA:

<http://www.baker-taylor.com/Academia/>
This is a site where anyone can find full ordering information on academic book titles published in the past 4 months by subject field.

BOOKWIRE:

<http://www.bookwire.com/AboutBW/inside.html>
"BookWire is the book industry's most comprehensive and thorough online information source." It is a good site for book reviews and has more than 7,000 links to book industry-related web sites.

MC JOURNAL:

<http://wings.buffalo.edu/publications/mcjrnl/>
"MC Journal: The Journal of Academic Media Librarianship is an electronic forum for practical and scholarly information on topics and issues concerning academic media librarianship." This site does provide a search engine to its "AV Review Database."

EDUCATION REVIEW:

<http://www.ed.asu.edu/edrev/index.html>
Education Review (ER) publishes review articles of recently published books in education.

FIRSTSEARCH:

<http://newfirstsearch.oclc.org/>
This is the login screen for *FirstSearch* databases for those who have a *FirstSearch* account.

RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS:

<http://www.gospelcom.net/cccu/fac-admi/erasmus.html>

This site provides links to a number of review sources for Christian books as well as some general links to scholarly Christian resources on the web.

REVIEW OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE:

<http://www.bookreviews.org/>
"The Review of Biblical Literature (RBL) is the most comprehensive review of monographic literature in the field of biblical and related studies as well as reference works, commentaries, dictionaries, and biblical translations."

CHOICE:

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/choice/home.html>
Choice offers a sampling of the reviews in *Choice* magazine for free; they have just initiated a subscription to access all of their reviews going back to 1988. "ChoiceReviews.online contains a searchable database of about 70,000 reviews, everything we've reviewed since September 1988." It includes e-mail notification of new reviews in your profile and a personalized list management system.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

ERIC ONLINE BIBLIOGRAPHIES: http://www.indiana.edu/~eric_rec/ico/bibs/menucata.html
This web site has links to numerous bibliographies on the various subfields of Education.

PHILOSOPHY GUIDE TO PRINT RESOURCES:

http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/ref/guides/rel/philbib.html
This site contains a bibliography of major reference sources in the field of philosophy as well as a link to a listing of philosophy web resources.

OUT OF PRINT RESOURCES

INTERVARSITY PRESS OP books:

<http://www.gospelcom.net/ivpress/info/op.html>
Intervarsity Press presents some strategies for finding out-of-print books as well as both online and offline resources to use in your search.

BIBLIOFIND:

<http://www.biblioind.com>
This site claims: "Nine million used and rare books, periodicals and ephemera offered for sale by thousands of booksellers around the world make this the most interesting book-selling site on the Web."