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Information Sources In Science And Technology, 3rd Edition (Library And Information Science Text (Paperback))



Synopsis

Intended to introduce readers to the breadth of information sources in the fields of science and technology as well as to their applications, this book offers in-depth coverage and a clear presentation of the structure of the literature. It covers all types of reference materials—from abstracts, dictionaries, and indexes to biographical directories, dissertations, and government documents. Descriptive and evaluative annotations define the scope of each work, its intended audience, and its special features. Critical comments allow users to compare sources and make choices between similar titles. Two major changes have been made in this edition. First, the range of publications has been updated to cover newer material. Second, myriad electronic—especially WWW—sites have been added. In general, works published before 1991 are not included, making this a current and selective guide. Valuable as a textbook and a guide to the literature, this book is also useful for collection development.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hurt, director of the Graduate Library School at the University of Arizona, is a well-known expert on the literature of the sciences. The second edition of his guide to the literature of science and technology, originally published in 1988, has undergone substantial change. The history chapter has been dropped and this material incorporated within each subject chapter. The number of

chapters has been expanded from 17 to 20 with an additional 50 pages added to the text. Although the number of numbered entries has increased by only 41, this is somewhat misleading. Some chapters have slight increases in their numbered entries; for example, "Astronomy" from 83 to 89. But an "Electronic Sources" section has been added at the end of all but four of the chapters, listing more than 700 unnumbered citations to the Internet. This book is organized in five sections: "Multidisciplinary Sources of Information," "The Biological Sciences," "The Physical Sciences and Mathematics," "Engineering," and "Health and Veterinary Sciences." Within sections, chapters are arranged alphabetically (e.g., "Biology," "Botany," "Zoology"). Typically, a chapter will list such sources as guides to the literature, abstracts and indexes, dictionaries, and handbooks. Each entry has full bibliographic information, including ISBN. The critical annotations vary in length from one sentence to a paragraph. Emphasis is upon English-language materials, but some French, German, and Russian sources are also examined. The online versions of sources are noted (e.g., CA Search, CAS Online) but usually not the CD-ROM version. Author-title and subject indexes assist users in locating entries. The Internet sources are not indexed. A comparable title is *Scientific and Technical Information Sources* by Chen (MIT, 1987), which covers 5,300 titles and provides one-sentence annotations. In contrast, Hurt has 2,052 entries with lengthier annotations plus citations to the Internet. While Hurt is more current, this book is not as current as its publication date would indicate. Many important 1992 titles are not included, for example, *Academic Press Dictionary of Science and Technology*, *Who's Who in Science and Engineering*, and the seventh edition of the *McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology* (the sixth edition from 1987 is listed). *Grzimek's Encyclopedia of Mammals* (1990) is also not listed. There are few 1993 books. Despite some problems with currency, this guide will be useful in academic and public libraries, especially for its list of Internet sources. It is also available on floppy disk from the publisher. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Would make an excellent textbook for a library school...or a good collection development guide for an academic science and engineering library...A good compact guide to the current literature of science and engineering."-E-streams
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that's it. there is some material in the book on resources available on the 'World Wide Web', but what's there is horrifically out of date; and in the, what? - *11 years* since the book came out, a lot of those resources have changed hugely in content and scope. i think now no one expects a url to be 'forever'. it's generally faster to employ a search engine to locate a resource even if one knows the correct url anyway. but it is *way* past time for changes and additions to that information.the information on print resources available is good, but could also use an update. some of the resources described are now 'electronic only', and if not, the electronic versions are generally the more up-to-date.for retrospective work, this is as good a book as it ever was.

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