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SantaVicca, Edmund F. *Reference Work in the Humanities*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1980. 173p. \$9. LC 80-18783. ISBN 0-8108-1342-4.

The title of this book may lead the reader to expect a treatise on reference work in the humanities. This work actually presents a variety of reference questions and case studies organized by subject. The subjects covered are philosophy, religion and mythology, literature, music, fine arts, and theater arts; there is also a chapter on interdisciplinary problems. Each subject area has a set of exercises, divided into three sections: questions, search problems, and case studies. The exercises are designed to familiarize readers with the disciplines that make up the humanities; to introduce the reader to the difficulties and complexities of the reference interview; and to provide search problems for every subject area using appropriate examples. Unfortunately, the author does not provide solutions to search problems. The appendix gives some examples of possible solutions in a few subject areas, but it seems that a book of this type should have solutions, or at least some suggestions on finding answers to the questions posed. This is also true for the case studies; no examples of possible solutions are given. Even if the main function of this work is to serve as a workbook in a classroom situation, suggested solutions appended at the end of the book would have enhanced its usefulness.

The approach employed in this book helps the reader to understand how to translate the language of the library user into the terminology of potential retrieval systems in a given library situation. Often too much emphasis has been placed by the library science curriculum and by practicing reference librarians on the nature and reference qualities of specific reference titles, and too little emphasis on understanding how these qualities come into play in the process of reference work. In this respect the author is successful in identifying a number of questions that help to distinguish the difference between these two processes.

In the absence of other titles in the area

of reference service in the humanities, this work is a good beginning. The questions selected in the exercises are phrased in a variety of ways, having varying degrees of clarity and ambiguity and differing levels of depth, which may help the reader to understand the kinds of questions he/she will encounter. A major weakness is the lack of a bibliography or notes suggesting further reading. This is a serious flaw in the book. One cannot help but compare this work with *Reference Books in the Social Sciences and Humanities* by R. E. Stevens (Stipes, 1977). The latter work is broader in scope and provides extensive information on several hundred specific reference books in the social sciences and humanities. (Stevens' title referred to here is out of print. Available is *Reference Books in the Social Sciences* by R. Stevens and D. Davis [Stipes, 1977].) Had these features been present in SantaVicca's book, they would have considerably increased its value.—George V. Hodowanec, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas.

ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources. *ERIC Basics; a Sound/Microfiche Instructional Package*. Syracuse, N.Y., 1979. 53-frame color microfiche, 12-minute audiocassette. \$10. (Available from: Information Resources Pubs., 130 Huntington Hall, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13210.)

This unusual pairing of media formats, a cassette and microfiche, is attractively boxed and easy to use. Its aim is to teach the uninitiated how to use the two ERIC indexes, *Resources in Education (RIE)* and *Current Index to Journals in Education (CIJE)*, in order to access the ERIC document collection and periodical literature in the field of education. It succeeds admirably. The narrators assume nothing yet are not insulting. A woman gives clear instructions on how to load and follow the fiche, and these instructions are repeated at appropriate points. A man presents the content, and again is concise and clear. Visually, the fiche frames are simple yet effective; the use of color and the repetition of cover shots of the three sources discussed (*RIE*, *CIJE*, and the *Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors*) reinforce the information that