

## SOURCES

tions. Whether it goes in the reference or circulating collection, though, this very well-done book would be welcome in any library.—*John Maxymuk, Reference Librarian, Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey*

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***Literary Research and the American Modernist Era: Strategies and Sources.*** By Robert N. Matuozzi and Elizabeth B. Lindsay. *Literary Research: Strategies and Sources.* Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2008. 192p. alkaline \$45 paper (ISBN 978-0-8108-6116-9).

The third title in Scarecrow's series on literary research, this guide to American Modernist writers (including William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Langston Hughes, Edith Wharton, and Willa Cather, among many others) was written by librarians at Washington State University. The authors define Modernism as "an international artistic phenomenon that gathered force in the early part of the twentieth century" (101). The book is intended to provide "a clear introduction to the best contemporary library resources and practices" for researching in this area, and the authors hope that it will "enable users to improve their information skills and fluency" (x). They frequently encourage readers to ask for assistance from a librarian.

Each title in this series follows a standardized, methodic format specific to the era being researched. Chapters include basics of online catalog searching, use of standard print and electronic bibliographies (such as Modern Language Association's International Bibliography database, MLAIB), locating articles in scholarly journals as well as newspapers, tracking down archives, judicious use of Web resources, and a difficult (or "thorny") research question. Most chapters close with bibliographic references. The appendix lists selected resources in related disciplines, and there is an index.

The work of Nella Larsen, the Danish–West Indian writer of the Harlem Renaissance, is the example used to research the thorny problem in this volume. The authors use this opportunity to highlight the online availability of African American newspapers. Current researchers have alluded to the possibility of Larsen being lesbian or bisexual because of perceived, though covert, same-sex references in her writing, but this possible factor is not mentioned, and the opportunity to introduce seriously researched gay and lesbian sources—such as *The Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage: A Reader's Companion to the Writers and Their Works, From Antiquity to the Present*, ed. Claude J. Summers (Holt, 1995; Routledge, rev. ed., 2002)—was lost. The authors do advise their readers that to stay current on "the development of issues or the critical reception of authors," they should "periodically review the scholarly journals in [the] field," (79–80) but they do not mention the fact that many databases allow users to set up free e-mailed tables of contents or other automated alerts.

Though some readers may be puzzled by the necessity in the opening chapters for screen shots of MARC records, others may enjoy decoding the secret language of catalogs. Screen shots of the Washington State University Library catalog (from Innovative Interfaces) are also provided, and the

pros and cons of keyword searching versus subject searching in online catalogs are explored, touching on synonyms and the consideration of having to use culturally insensitive terms to find material from early years.

This book (and others in this series) is putting up a valiant battle against Google Scholar. Certainly, an advanced Google (or Google Scholar) search can be remarkably useful, but students should always be steered toward the sources that the authors encourage, such as James Harner's *Literary Research Guide: An Annotated Listing of Reference Sources in English Literary Studies* (5th ed., Modern Language Association, 2008).

There is no end of quality academic websites that instruct students on sources of literary modernism. There are many guides to Modernism (in literature, art, and music) but they often are anthologies with brief lists of further reading, or are a little out of date for twenty-first-century students. This modestly priced book will be valuable to librarians and faculty and should certainly be available at academic and large public libraries. It appears not be available electronically, and that would perhaps vastly increase its usefulness.—*Martha E. Stone, Coordinator for Reference Services, Treadwell Library, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston*

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***The Martin Luther King, Jr., Encyclopedia.*** By Clayborne Carson, Tenisha Armstrong, Susan Carson, Erin Cook, and Susan Englander. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 456p. alkaline \$65 (ISBN 978-0-313-29440-2).

Given the significance of Martin Luther King Jr. in shaping modern America, it is surprising that there has not been a reference work devoted to his life and work. This single-volume encyclopedia helps fill that gap. The 285 essays chronicle Martin Luther King Jr.'s relationships with family members, civil rights activists, politicians, and opponents. Also receiving attention are landmark speeches, legal decisions, events, and ideas that influenced the civil rights era. As might be expected, many entries cover familiar people and events, such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Ralph Abernathy. Wisely, the authors do not seek to fully explore every aspect of these larger topics, but focus on how they relate to King. Clayborne Carson and his colleagues are uniquely qualified to make these connections. The encyclopedia draws upon the work of scholars at the King Research and Education Institute, who have spent years compiling, researching, and annotating the published papers of Martin Luther King Jr.

While the content reflects the substantial scholarship invested in the Martin Luther King Jr. Papers Project, the essays are quite accessible to a wide range of readers. The authors have done an admirable job distilling a substantial body of knowledge into concise summaries appropriate for high school, public, or academic audiences. Most essays are one-to-two pages long and include citations to relevant primary sources, in particular material from the Martin Luther King Jr. Papers Project. Additional primary sources, such as contemporary news and magazine articles, are referenced, while comparatively few secondary sources are recommended.