sites, and e-journals. As she notes in the preface, the AACR2 rules have evolved, particularly for electronic resources, and new Library of Congress rule interpretations have been issued as well. Thus, this book presents the most up-to-date standards and provides current illustrative examples to reflect these changes.

The book begins with a review of the organization of information and of cataloging in general. Experienced catalogers probably will benefit most from chapters three through seven, which cover the cataloging of sound recordings, video recordings, electronic resources, resource integration, and remote access e-journals. Each chapter begins with a summary of the changes and challenges of the particular format, then goes on to provide a detailed step-by-step guide to the MARC fields, rules for descriptive cataloging, and subject access. Examples abound within each chapter, illustrating the principles for each format. When covering sound recordings, the illustration of the cataloging record for the *Beauty and the Beast* soundtrack includes the cataloging record, the list of fields, and a lengthy discussion section to refine the fields, codes, and applicable rules. Each chapter also includes a list of references and bibliography of suggested readings, creating a densely packed and organized handbook on the topic.

This book fills a niche as an updated resource for cataloging nonprint materials. The 2005 publication *Unlocking the Mysteries of Cataloging: A Workbook of Examples* does include such examples as sound recordings, musical scores, and cartographic materials, but Hsieh-Yee's book is more extensive and even includes a discussion of metadata issues. Technical services staff in all types of libraries, as well as students and faculty, will welcome this comprehensive, authoritative, and valuable addition to the library literature.—*Barbara Hillson, Fenwick Reference, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia*

Poetry Aloud Here! Sharing Poetry with Children in the Library. By Sylvia M. Vardell. Chicago: ALA, 2006. 217p. $38 (ISBN 0-8389-0916-7).

Poetry Aloud Here! Sharing Poetry with Children was created to help librarians and teachers immerse elementary school students in the poetry genre. Vardell begins her work by acknowledging the natural occurrences of poetry in daily life and illustrating how poetry can provide both pleasurable and picturesque pathways to literacy.

In chapter two, the author discusses numerous poetry awards for children's poets and supplies a record of honored poets. Attention is also given to multicultural forms of poetry, and a listing of twenty "must read" poems is provided. Additionally included are fifty popular children's poets with excerpts about their poetic compositions. Another great find in this chapter are the names of thirteen poetry anthologists who not only write poetry but also have an ear and an eye for creating phenomenal poetry collections.

The four general categories of poetry books can be found in the third chapter. Under each category, Vardell gives a description of the poetry and lists exemplary books. Infor-

mation is also furnished about online poetry resources. The chapter concludes by focusing on the selection of poetry to enhance a collection and by providing the reader with poetry selection tools.

Promoting the poetry genre is the topic of the fourth chapter. Vardell suggests workable ideas ranging from captivating displays to the pairing of poetry with nonfiction texts for integration across the curriculum. The author explains ten poetry involvement strategies and designates specific poems for getting students actively engaged.

The final chapter supplies ten follow-up questions for poetry discussions to aid librarians and teachers seeking to promote critical thinking skills. Her concept of poetry discussion groups in which each member plays a role is sure to be popular with students, teachers, and librarians.

Vardell also presents numerous ideas for intertwining poetry with the fine arts. Writing and publishing poetry with children is addressed, along with the electronic resources for publishing the students' products. The book index and list of noteworthy children's authors with their Web addresses are added bonuses. The extensive bibliography of poetry and the documentation of research complete this practical, informative tool for educators.—*Jamie Johnson, Library Media Specialist, McKinley Elementary School, Norman, Oklahoma*

Readers' Advisory Service in the Public Library. 3rd edition. By Joyce G. Saricks. Chicago: ALA, 2005. 211p. $38 (ISBN 0-8389-0897-7).

Though college and university libraries serve their patrons most effectively with a reference interview leading to specific information, public libraries have become more valuable as their use of readers' advisory (RA) services increases. Saricks's book, now in its third edition, is an RA classic that is also an extremely practical handbook for librarians.

"Readers' advisors want to formalize the way we naturally think about books so that it becomes easier to recognize elements of appeal more consistently and to describe books in terms that allow readers to decide if certain titles will meet their needs at the moment" (43). To accomplish this, Saricks presents a way of thinking through the process. After a short history, the book outlines reference sources currently available, both online and in print. A chapter on "Articulating a Book's Appeal" includes such technical evaluations of a book as "Is there more dialogue or more description?" and "Do characters act or react to events?"—reminding me of time spent as an undergraduate English major—yet these are all good questions to consider before attempting to describe a title to a patron. Next, "The Readers' Advisory Interview" is discussed. Because most librarians were not educated in this technique (even though the reference interview is similar), and many staff in public libraries have not had the benefit of a library school education, this chapter should be required reading if we intend to serve our patrons well.

The most interesting chapter was on the "Background for Readers' Advisors." Saricks gives the reader a way of ap-

proaching the subject matter that, librarian-like, helps organize the information for future use. It seems clear that RA is most effective as a group effort and that the service becomes more valuable as it is adapted to local needs.

Saricks admits that training in RA is difficult; the subject matter can be overwhelming. Saricks's book helps to mitigate that effect and offers a practical method for bringing together patron and product, something we should all take advantage of in this era of questioning the relevance of libraries.—*James McShane, Director, Kent Memorial Library, Suffield, Connecticut*

The Real Story: A Guide to Nonfiction Reading Interests. By Sarah Statz Cords. Edited by Robert Burgin. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 464p. $55 (ISBN 1-59158-283-0).

The Real Story is a unique handbook that helps readers' advisors recommend nonfiction titles to library patrons based on their preferred genre, subject, or writing style. Sarah Statz Cords states, "Librarians must recognize that there will always be books within subjects that most patrons, happy to browse in their habitual subject areas, would never see but might enjoy nonetheless" (xix).

While nonfiction's increased popularity is part of a larger media trend toward films based on true stories, documentaries, and reality shows, Cords encourages mixing fiction and nonfiction advisory because readers may enjoy both nonfiction and fiction on the same topic. Titles cover 1990 to 2005 and include starred reviews from review sources, award winners, a few titles from her library's sorting truck, and a few classics.

Within each chapter, Cords explains the development and appeal of the genre, subject, or style. The bulk of each chapter lists some of the best titles in that genre or subject area, along with a short list of titles to start with, fiction read-alikes, further reading, and references. Four appendixes provide lists of political pundits, spiritual writers, awards, and resources for nonfiction books. Bold index tabs help the reader flip to the next chapter.

In the "Biography" chapter, Cords points out that sports biographies may appeal to readers of true adventure because both contain "elements of the most exciting competitions or hardest-fought battles" (215). She spends a lot of time on "Relationships" and "Making Sense . . . " (of ourselves, of our culture) titles because they are well liked by readers, there are no corresponding subject headings, and they are not shelved near each other in libraries. Some truly fun sections cover celebrities and superstars, humorous memoirs, and "gentle family reads."

The Real Story distinguishes itself by being the only nonfiction readers' advisory (RA) book that includes annotated recommended titles, explains each genre's development and appeal, and suggests related fiction titles. Librarians who want to know more about the basics of nonfiction RA should consult Robert Burgin's *Nonfiction Readers Advisory* (Libraries Unlimited, 2004).

Reading *The Real Story* is an enjoyable learning experience. Knowing the appeal of nonfiction genres, subjects, and styles will help reference librarians immensely and will help their readers discover how exciting well-written nonfiction can be.—*Margie Ruppel, Reference and Interlibrary Loan Librarian, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville*

Student Guide to Research in the Digital Age: How to Locate and Evaluate Information Sources. By Leslie F. Stebbins. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 202p. $45 (ISBN 1-59158-099-4).

Each year one encounters new research guides. However, the *Student Guide* by Stebbins is worth serious attention. Living up to its intention of being "essential reading" (xi), it does a masterful job of integrating critical thinking skills, information sources, and database searching techniques, all in one concise paperback.

Following a chapter outlining the basic steps of research (identifying a topic, choosing research strategies), the *Student Guide* leads users to sources for books (including e-books), magazine and journal articles, primary sources, biography, laws and court cases, and government documents. In addition to the usual subscription databases, the *Student Guide* judiciously mentions reference books, microfilm series, and freely accessible Web sites, thus enabling students to find helpful information, regardless of how digitized their own libraries have become.

Critical thinking and evaluation are important parts of each chapter, and Stebbins tailors her suggestions to the types of sources at hand. For instance, she encourages users of primary sources to look for internal and external consistency in the creator's story and suggests that readers of autobiographies find out whether a ghost writer was used. Whenever the *Student Guide* encourages readers to use a database, it uses partial screenshots to illustrate how to adjust search fields appropriately and compose a valid search with Boolean operators and truncation. These outstanding features should be emulated in all research guides.

There are only a few improvements one could suggest. Knowing the popularity of business as an undergraduate major, any subsequent edition should add a chapter on finding unbiased information about companies, nonprofits, and other corporate entities. Also, given that many students have to develop presentations along with (or instead of) written papers, a section on finding and using images and videos would be helpful. The final chapter, which addresses citation and plagiarism, could include more information on APA style.

Some guides, such as Jeff Lenburg's *Guide to Research* (Facts On File, 2005), excel at listing pertinent reference titles and subscription databases for an array of disciplines. Others, such as those by Pyrczak Publishing, explain surveys, statistical software, and other concerns of graduate-level students and empirical researchers. However, the *Student Guide* by Stebbins is the best literature guide for undergraduates that has crossed this reviewer's desk. Highly recommended