definitely covers all anyone other than the fervid fan would wish to know about these characters. It is limited to just twenty-four characters and authors so is not the full spectrum of mystery and crime characters. Almost each kind (i.e. cozy, hard-boiled, noir) of the mystery genre is represented except that of the tough and savvy woman detective such as Sara Paretsky's V. I. Warshawski, Sue Grafton's Kinsey Millhone, or Patricia Cornwell's Kay Scarpetta. There is a passing reference in the chapter on Jessica Fletcher, but this reviewer would recommend a more robust treatment, if not a substitution for the Jessica Fletcher chapter. There are many reference and nonfiction books about mystery and crime detection authors and fictional characters but none quite like this reference work with its attention to the cultural and historical context and the character's lasting impact. The reader receives a history lesson along with information about the character. I would recommend this set to public and academic libraries that have an audience interested in a scholarly approach to this genre.—*Carol Krismann, Retired Business Librarian, University of Colorado*

Literary Research Guide, 5th ed. By James L. Harner. New York: Modern Language Association. Online Edition, www.mlalrg.org/public, call for pricing.

Long the standard for identifying research sources for literature in English, the *Literary Research Guide* annotates reference resources, detailing their strengths and, in many cases, suggesting how to use them efficiently or in combination with additional titles. The online edition, based upon the printed fifth edition, won the 2009 PROSE Award for eProduct/Best in Humanities. While the online edition retains the overall organizational structure and entries of the print edition, it also has the advanced features of a database and discovery tool, increasing the value of this essential resource.

Entries are grouped as general reference works, broad national literatures, or related topics and within each section follow a structured approach divided by type of reference work, from broad strokes such as histories and surveys, drilling down to biographical dictionaries and genres. Titles under each heading are listed in order of importance to the field. Scanning entries within any section is much like scanning the inventory of a well-stocked academic collection. However, Harner acknowledges that omissions are inevitable, and that is true in some specialized fields of study. While the "Literature Related Topics and Sources" section acknowledges disciplines related to the study of literature, the small number of entries provides limited entry to these areas. A major resource for popular culture, Tom Pendergast and Sara Pendergast's *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture* (St. James Press, 2000), is omitted as well as Salem Press's Decades series. Intentionally omitted are separate entries on works focusing on a single author, general surveys, and elementary works more suited to lower level researchers, although within an entry researchers may be guided to such material. A decided preference toward print rather than electronic resources indicates the state of electronic reference materials in literature, although more electronic resources are added with each new edition as appropriate. Overall, the thoroughness and currency of this resource is well-established. Harner has updated entries since the print fifth edition; these updates, including revised or renumbered entries, are clearly indicated in the "Update Information" link, information previously available from an author-supplied URL used in conjunction with the print editions. As the online guide continues to be updated, however, lists of recent updates need to be organized or indicated more effectively than alphabetically under each revision date, listing perhaps only the latest round of updates or a last updated note within each entry.

Although not apparent from the initial edition number, the online and print editions differ in content. The online edition includes "The Research Process," a section which walks through the process of finding primary and secondary works much like a tutorial, suggesting resources from broad categories (bibliographies of bibliographies) to narrow (text archives), working down through a list to cover all the research bases. The online edition frees researchers from relying on the index to find a work that may only be referenced in annotations for another resource; due to full text and title searching, the three indexes from the print edition are not included online.

A basic full text search and an advanced search (full text, author or editor name, or title of work) return results quickly, both for known item searching and keyword searching. Search result relevancy is high while still allowing for serendipitous discovery of related resources based upon the results list. Complementary titles from other sections of the guide are easily found within the results list, and the ability to browse through a section also works well for discovery. Tracking sources for multiple projects can be managed by a user account, similar to the type used in EBSCO databases or WorldCat FirstSearch.

The ability to link from *LRG* entries directly to library holdings, WorldCat, and Google Books increases immediate discovery, allowing users to move directly from an *LRG* entry to the local catalog record. Also hyperlinked are "see also" references, included at the end of many entries, providing an efficient method of moving through entries to find a number of potential resources, possibly further opening up reference collections and increasing usage.

The *LRG* site indicates that it will be updated twice a year; MLA is not certain a print version will continue to be available in future editions. Essential for researchers from advanced undergraduates to faculty and researchers.—*Amy F. Fyn, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio*

Milestone Documents in African American History. Ed. By Paul Finkelman. Milestone Documents. Dallas, Tex.: Schlager, 2010.4 vols. acid free $395 (ISBN 978-1-935306-05-4). Complementary online access with purchase of print.

This set is the publisher's fourth entry in a series of reference volumes focusing on primary sources, and *Milestone Documents in African American History* is a welcome addition to the current literature. Although other texts such as George