Review of Sociology: a Guide to Reference and Information Sources

Kathyanne W. Dobda
Cleveland State University, k.dobda@csuohio.edu

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Kathyanne W. Dobda
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Post-print prepared by MSL Academic Endeavors, the imprint of the Michael Schwartz Library at Cleveland State University (2012)
This third edition of a standard in sociology reference guides covers mainly English language publications from 1997-2004. There are a total of 610 major reference works in this edition, including many electronic sources. Over 300 of these entries were not in earlier editions.

In a clear organizational format, there are chapters for general social science sources, sociology sources, and other sociological fields. Within each chapter are subdivisions of guides; bibliographies; indexes, abstracts and databases; handbooks and yearbooks; dictionaries and encyclopedias, data and statistics; directories; and biographies. The major organizational difference in this edition is that reference works for other social science disciplines are included with the general resources in the first chapter instead of in a separate chapter as they were in earlier editions. A list of 64 of the best sociology journals is especially useful. Many of the sociological fields are subdivided again as appropriate and include the various types of resources. Further access is provided by an author/title index and a subject index.

When including websites in a reference source such as this, there is always the chance that the URL will change or no longer be available. The websites that are included were all accessed in the spring of 2004 and dates are given as part of the citation. In spot-checking about 25 URL’s for accuracy and currency, I only found one that was not working. This volume went to press before the changes were made in the ERIC database and does not reflect these recent developments. However all citations include clear, concise annotations which include dates of coverage and other pertinent information.
This is an excellent selection tool for any academic library that supports a sociology curriculum. Librarians, researchers, and undergraduate students should find the subject approach helpful. Since this is such a substantial revision, libraries that own the earlier editions will also want to have this one on their shelves.

Kathyanne W. Dobda
Education Librarian
Cleveland State University