

Subject Expertise from Scratch

Heather Ward, Humanities Librarian

OUS Collection Development Day, 15 October 1999

- I. People—get to know people & subject
 - A. Other Librarians at UO
 1. How they handle their areas
 2. Specific sources to use
 - B. Other Librarians outside
 1. subject lists – WESS Romance, H-HistBibl
 2. current topics
 - C. UO Faculty
 1. specialties
 2. curriculum – present & future
 3. strong collections elsewhere
 4. syllabi/required reading
 5. browse dept. web pages
 - D. classes/workshops
 1. language class
 2. ALCTS—Coll Devp & Mgmt Institute

- II. Literature—learn the subject & your collection simultaneously
 - A. Overviews
 1. encyclopedia articles—regional or literary
 2. familiarity with names, themes, history (timelines)
 3. provide bibs
 4. keep copy/citation for future ref
 - B. Assessment
 1. Can vary focus
 - a. Narrow & deep Latin Am lit/broad & shallow history
 - b. Selective/comprehensive
 2. How to find bibs
 - a. ask librarians
 - b. browse ref guides like *ALA Guide to Reference Books* or *Walford's Guide*
 - c. start with *Books for College Libraries*—dated but good
 - d. search web—*African & Caribbean Literature in French*
 3. Major Authors
 - a. list from an encyclopedia—*Latin American Writers*
 - b. brief bio—*Britannica Online*
 4. Other Major Collection
 - a. new WorldCat limit search by wau & search against our collection
 - C. Browsing
 1. approval plan—view profile/devp policy?

2. new books
3. textbooks in bookstore

III. Other Duties

- A. Reference
 1. questions bring up new issues
 2. new sources
- B. Instruction/Liaison Research Guides
 1. explore sources to more depth
 2. learn more about source/database content
 3. better understanding of curriculum
- C. Collection Development Web Page
 1. i.d. sources/vendors for different lit/products
 2. connect with faculty & make my work easier

"African & Caribbean Literature in French: A Guide to Research & Documentation" from Mohamed Mekkawi at Howard University Libraries.

<http://www.founders.howard.edu/afrolit2.htm>

WESS Web

<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/wess/index.html>

H-HistBibl

<http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~histbibl/>

Research by Subject: Spanish Language & Literature

<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/subguid/history/spanish.html>

Humanities Librarian: Heather Ward Home Page

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~hward/>

Heather's Collection Development Links

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~hward/collection.html>

Guide to reference books / edited by Robert Balay ; associate editor, Vee Friesner Carrington ; with special editorial assistance by Murray S. Martin.

11th ed.

Chicago : American Library Association, 1996.

Walford's guide to reference material.

6th ed.

London : Library Association Publishing, 1993-

Books for college libraries : a core collection of 50,000 titles.

3rd ed.

Chicago : American Library Association, 1988.

Latin American writers / Carlos A. Sole, editor, Maria Isabel Abreu, associate editor.

New York : Scribner, 1989.