25/25 points, No comments

Reference Collection Development Proposal

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This reference collection is designed for a public library in the Pacific Northwest, particularly in the area of Yamhill County, Oregon which will aid local patrons in performing genealogical research on their extended families. It will also teach patrons about the local history of the area in which they live. Genealogy research is one of the most popular activities in the United States, and this collection will bring together excellent resources for patrons to utilize. Those most likely to use this collection include amateur genealogists or simply first time researchers who need help in not only finding relevant information about their families, but who could also use sources which will guide them in how to go about their research. By providing patrons with resources which provide them with information on how to start their projects, what kinds of records are available, and where to find them, users will be able to complete their task successfully.

Reference Sources

Clemensson, P., & Andersson, K. (2004). *Your Swedish roots: a step by step handbook*; Provo, UT: Ancestry Publishing

According to the website [www.swedishrootsinoregon.org](http://www.swedishrootsinoregon.org), Swedes began coming into the Oregon Territory with the first group of white settlers around 1850. By 1910, the Swedes were the second largest foreign-language immigrant group in the state. This handbook provides an excellent resource for people whose ancestors are included in that group. According to an editorial review found on amazon.com, "For a newcomer, Your Swedish Roots is an excellent and inviting resource. While not ignoring the complexities of Swedish research, this book, by introducing approaches to finding the place of origin in Sweden and laying out thoughtfully chosen case studies, guides the reader through the process." This source is easy to read, and gives step-by-step instructions on how to utilize resources specializing in Swedish genealogy. A detailed table of contents as well as an index provides several access points. Clemensson is a leading lecturer and writer in the genealogical field, and both authors have published many related books. According to Gary Shea, a genealogy researcher and a director of the Irish Genealogical Society in Wisconsin, “Books about Sweden in English are pretty hard to come by. In my own small collection of rare finds, Your Swedish Roots finds a welcome spot…” in his library. The cost of this book is $24.95.

Genline: Swedish genealogy online : Web. 11 Apr. 2011. <http://www.genline.com>.

Genline is an online database full of useful sources for researching Swedish family history. The database was started in the Swedish town of Duved in 1993 with the purpose of digitizing Sweden’s historical church records and making them available to the general public. Genline brings together resources from church records, cemetery records, and others which, according to Judy Chambers of the Clackamas County Family History Society, are “a must” in any genealogy reference collection. Genline’s tool, FamilyFinder, allows you to search, view, and print information from the Swedish Church Records Archive. Researchers can also find articles written by genealogists on the basics of Swedish research and how to get started. The website also provides dates of genealogy seminars and other events of interest to those researching Swedish genealogy. Full access to the database requires a subscription. Prices range from $12 for a 24 hour pass, $39 for a month long subscription, and up to $310 for a year. For those with larger projects willing to spend a little extra to get help in their research, Genline offers professional genealogy research starting at $156 for five hours of assistance. So for people who need help getting started and do not mind paying for access to an all Swedish resource, or those who are interested in paying for help getting started, Genline is a great resource.

Hoffman, M. (1997). *Genealogical & local history books in print: general reference & world resources volume* (5th ed.). Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company.

Hoffman’s bibliographical resource lists genealogical reference books under the categories of general reference and world resources, then further divides into headings ranging from adoption records, Bible records, vital records, and other resources important to the process of genealogical research. The World Resources section lists publications covering countries from all over the world, including Australia, Britain, Germany, and more. This is a great resource for people looking for resources for further research. The bibliographies give all the needed information for locating the necessary sources such as the author, title of the work, publication date, selling price, and vendor information. The book also contains an index of authors and titles. According to American Reference Book Annual, this collection “constitutes such an essential and useful resource that no genealogical library anywhere should be without them.” This source can be used by researchers to determine what resources are available to them for researching their family history. The compact size of the volume, only 5 ½ by 8 ½ inches makes it convenient and easy to use. The price for the volume is $50, making it a very reasonable addition to any genealogy collection.

*The source: A guidebook of American genealogy*. (2006). Provo, UT: Ancestry.com.

This genealogy handbook was first published in 1984, and with its third edition, has stayed with its same contributors and topics, including how to use various types of records vital to genealogy research, such as census, church, and immigration records. Some topics include Native American and Colonial English research sources, as well as how to utilize various common records used by genealogists such as census and church records. The volume contains a detailed table of contents, alphabetical index for easy information lookups, as well as appendixes for various state archives and genealogical organizations which provide the researcher with a wealth of information. The simple writing style and the variety of access points make this volume easy to use for even the novice genealogy researcher. According to a booklist review from the American Library Association “Any library serving patrons interested in local history or genealogy will want to add this new edition to its collection” (Review retrieved from Amazon.com). Choice Reviews calls it “essential, [for] all genealogy collections.” Price: $49.95

Gaston, J. (1903). *Portrait and biographical record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon*. Chicago, IL: Chapman Publishing Company

This volume is an excellent biographical source for anyone researching ancestors from the Willamette Valley. The volume provides an index of biographies contained in the volume listed by family name, and many are accompanied by photos of those being profiled. The author, Joseph Gaston, has written many well respected resources all focusing on Oregon and the Willamette Valley. This volume is currently held by eight different libraries, five of them in the Pacific Northwest. According to librarian Judy Chambers and the staff at the Clackamas County Family History Society this is a “Great resource” and highly recommended for any northwest genealogy collection. This volume is hardback bound and will stand up to many years of future use.

Assignment Reflection

I found this assignment to be extremely useful in allowing us to practice designing a collection with a particular purpose and user in mind, which we will no doubt be doing a lot in our professional careers. I liked the fact that we were able to design our project around a topic that interested us personally. In order to get ideas about resources to include in my proposal I visited libraries that had collections similar to the one I wanted to build, mostly those of The Oregon Historical Society and The Yamhill County Museum and Library. I was able to talk with other librarians at these and other locations who had experience with such collections. It seemed like a challenge at first having to decide among the relevant sources what was considered a reference source and what wasn’t, but it was an important distinction to learn. It felt like I had a harder time finding reviews for material that was more historical yet relevant to my project, but I appreciated the fact that we could use recommendations from other librarians as well as written reviews.