

Reference and Information Services for the 21st Century

Chapter 5 Notes

- Encyclopedias are the basic core of any library.
 - Generally are alphabetically arranged articles
 - Written by multiple experts
 - Copious bibliography
 - Age appropriate versions
 - Different scopes of information
 - General
 - Subject-specific
 - Different lengths (pocket vs. full-set)
 - Format
 - Print vs. electronic
- Questions Nicely Answered
 - Ready Reference: Quick look-up of facts
 - Accessibility: Usually easy to understand
 - Scope: Depth of detail varies between general and specific types
 - One-stop Source: General-type covers a broad range of topics
 - Referrals: Has bibliographies, cross-references, and further information links
 - Synopses: Is a reflective time capsule of the era in which the edition was printed
 - Value Add-ons: Graphics, multimedia on disc/online
- Questions Can't Answer
 - Analytical Phrases: Cannot give a merged analysis of different topics
 - Current Issues: Information is already outdated for current topics before printed
 - New Technology: Cannot keep up with latest tech trends
- Which encyclopedia is appropriate for a user?
 - LURES
 - L evel of user
 - U pdating policies
 - R esearch aids
 - E lectronic availability
 - S pecial features
- General Encyclopedias
 - Are designed to be useful for as many people as possible. "Utility"
 - *World Book*:
 - Children and families
 - Simple to complex explanations

- Easy to understand, very accessible
 - *Encyclopedia Americana*
 - Grade 8 and up
 - Is aimed predominantly at American history and culture
 - *Encyclopedia Britannica*
 - For older audiences
 - Lots of research aids
 - Famous contributors (Einstein, Orville Wright, Marie Curie)
 - International coverage
 - Most respected
- Multimedia Encyclopedias
 - Are online
 - Wikipedia: open editing on nearly all topics
 - Different learning styles accessible (images, links, videos, audio)
 - Updated frequently
 - Longer articles, more articles possible
 - May not be authenticated
- Subject Encyclopedias
 - Are kept to meet specific needs and demands to the user base/library mission
 - Great depth in the subject
 - Recommended subject encyclopedias for every library:
 - *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology*
 - *Dictionary of Art*
 - *Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia*
 - *Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America*
- Encyclopedias for Children and Young Adults
 - *The New Book of Knowledge*
 - Large print
 - 21 volumes
 - Homework help columns, critical thinking questions
 - *Lands and People*
 - Grades 6-12
 - 7 volumes arranged by continent
 - *Compton's by Britannica*
 - Aligned to National Curriculum Standards
 - Grades 6-12
 - Research Aids
 - Arranged by subject headings

- *My First Britannica*
 - 12 volumes
 - Quizzes, games, challenges
 - Arranged by subject headings
- *The World Book Student Discovery Encyclopedia*
 - Elementary school age
 - Very simple language
 - Prepares student for future research tasks
- Collection Development and Maintenance
 - Keep your collection current
 - Evaluate the encyclopedia for truthfulness:
 - Reliable
 - Meets needs of institution
 - Affordable
 - Holds user interest (graphics, easy to understand, etc)