

should not be dismissed. Mortal trepidation is inherent in the metamorphosis of library services from human interactions to computer-assisted mediation. Levy characterizes this transfer of authority as fraught with anxiety and fear of death. He is very convincing.

In short, this book is a gem. It has broad appeal. It will satisfy diverse interests in computer science, social science, semantics, philosophy, and project management. While there are a few annoying inconsistencies (a few URLs that no longer connect and, physically, the construction of the book's text block is not likely to hold up for long), it is dense with information. Bibliographies follow each paper and an index provides access to the text.—**Paula De Stefano, Barbara Goldsmith Curator for Preservation, New York University Libraries, 70 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012 <paula.destefano@nyu.edu>.**

Successful Keyword Searching: Initiating Research on Popular Topics Using Electronic Databases, by Randall M. MacDonald and Susan Priest MacDonald. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2001. 443p. \$44.95. ISBN 0-313-30676-1. LC 00035323.

Students who take advantage of reference sources to help them build search terms can increase their efficiency in searching electronic resources and may also expand their vocabulary for the thinking and writing associated with research. The MacDonalds' ready reference guide, *Successful Keyword Searching*, aims to help students perform searches for popular topics by providing lists of topical keywords commonly used in online public library catalogs (OPACs), CD-ROMs, and the World Wide Web, as well as brief lists of relevant organizations; and Web sites. Nine broad headings, such as "Science and Technology" and "Social Issues and Sociology," categorize 144 topical chapters including visual arts, cancer, and UFO's. Chapters consist of an alphabetical list of keywords, and very brief lists of related organizations and Web sites. Occasionally, lists of "Key People," which are organized by century, are also included. Chapters are an average of about three pages. There is a brief explanation of operators, controlled vocabulary, and natural language at the beginning of the work, and there are no indexes or cross-references.

The idea of this work—providing students with lists of keywords to perform better online searches—is timely and sensible. However, an alphabetized list of terms that otherwise have no definition or context may not be useful or valuable to intended and generally uninformed "beginning researchers." Furthermore, this work is fraught with apparent oversights of worthy keywords and inexplicable inclusion of others. In the chapter on "Literature," for example, "bibliometrics" is listed but not "metaphor." In this same chapter, only John Dryden and the minor Anne Bradstreet are listed as "Key People" from the 17th century. Oddly, Milton, Bunyan, or other more prominent figures are not included. In the chapters on "Affirmative Action" and "Race Relations," LC's subject heading, "Afro-American," is nowhere found. Surely students will miss a majority of records related to African Americans if they do not use this term in a catalog. As there is only a brief statement about how "terms were drawn from hundreds of sources . . ." and that "[c]hief among . . . sources consulted [was] *The Library of Congress Subject Headings* . . .," one can only guess about how decisions for inclusion and exclusion were made. The work does provide some reliable Web sites and organizations relevant to popular topics, but performing a search on a university home page or an internet reviewing service may direct students to resources that are as selective.

Helping students build search vocabulary and garner background information about their chosen topics should be a priority for instruction and reference librarians. The MacDonalds' work however, will not be the most effective resource for helping students engage in this process. Handbooks like ABC-CLIO's, *Contemporary World Issues Series*, which is exemplary in its provision of glossaries, biographical sketches, chronologies, and well-annotated lists of Web sites and organizations for popular topics, are perhaps the best alternative if your library can afford them. Otherwise, the traditional combined use of encyclopedias, *The Library of Congress Subject Headings*, and other reference materials will provide inexpert researchers with a much more comprehensible context for keyword generation.—**Amanda Cain, Coordinator of Library Instruction, Holland/New Library 102B, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-5610 <acain@wsu.edu>.**