

Schmidt, D., Davis, E.B., Jacobs, P.F.: **Using the Biological Literature: A Practical Guide.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. – Marcel Dekker, New York – Basel 2002. ISBN 0-8247-0667-6. 474 pp., USD 85.00.

The three ladies, authors of the third edition of this successful manual, are librarians and information scientists and/or teach at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Their manual serves more to librarians that launch or strengthen their collection in the broad field of biology than to students. Nevertheless, also the students and their teachers can find here a selection of books, journals, and information sources for the start in a new field of biology.

The book is composed of 13 chapters. The first one presents a brief history of biology, basic characteristics of biological literature, its geographic origin and dominant language, and information on electronic biological literature. Chapter 2 overviews subject access to biological information. Definitions, advantages and disadvantages, important indexing systems (Biological Abstracts and Chemical Abstracts), and internet resources are the main items. Chapter 3 (General Sources) introduces biological associations, audio-visual materials, main bibliographies, sources of classification, nomenclature, and systematics, basic dictionaries and encyclopaedias, directories, field guides, general books, guides to internet resources, guides to the literature, handbooks, books on history and development of biology, books on mathematics and statistics, methods and techniques, main textbooks and treatises, general periodicals, and sources of review articles. Chapter 4 deals with abstracts, indexes, and retrospective tools. Author(s), title, publisher, place and year of publishing, ISBN or ISSN, price, and brief annotation are always given. The information is often accompanied with e-mail address and internet address.

The remaining nine chapters are specialised in various fields of biology. Similar information as in chapter 3 is given in these chapters for individual branches of biology. Chapter 5 deals with biochemistry and biophysics, chapter 6 with molecular and cellular biology, chapter 7 with

genetics, biotechnology, and developmental biology, chapter 8 with microbiology and immunology, chapter 9 with ecology, evolution, and animal behaviour, chapter 10 with plant biology, chapter 11 with anatomy and physiology, chapter 12 with entomology, and finally chapter 13 with zoology. This division of biology into several fields probably corresponds to departments in many U.S. universities, but generally it is rather strange. Why is entomology separated from other parts of zoology? Anatomy and physiology in chapter 11 is that of human beings. Why is animal behaviour incorporated into chapter 9? *Etc.* With some exceptions (*e.g.* in chapters 10 or 13), sources produced during the last decade are given.

Which specialised sources dealing with photosynthesis can be found in this manual? From basic textbooks, those of D.O. Hall and K.K. Rao (Photosynthesis, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed.), D.W. Lawlor (Photosynthesis: Molecular, Physiological, and Environmental Processes, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.), Govindjee (Molecular Biology of Photosynthesis), Y.P. Abrol *et al.* (Photosynthesis: Photoreactions to Plant Productivity), are noticed in chapter 10. Among periodicals, Photosynthesis Research (but not its elder brother Photosynthetica) is given. Among review series the reader will find Advances in Photosynthesis published by Kluwer. 25 volumes of Photosynthesis Bibliography and other bibliographies of photosynthesis are not mentioned, and the same holds for the International Society of Photosynthesis Research.

The percentage of sources produced in the U.S.A. and mentioned in this book is higher than corresponds to reality. Even important European sources are neglected in many cases. The amount of typographical errors is fairly small (*e.g.* Biochemica et Biophysica Acta in the index). A comprehensive index (50 pp.) incorporates all kinds of items, *i.e.* fields of science, names of scientists, titles of sources, *etc.*

Z. ŠESTÁK (Praha)