

Introduction to Encyclopaedia of Library & Information Science

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Abstract: It was first published 1968-2003 in 73 volumes under the editorship of Allen Kent, Harold Lancour and Jay E. Daily. Second edition edited by Miriam Drake was published 2003 in 4 volumes, third edition edited by Marcia J. Bates and Mary Niles Maac came in 2010 in seven volumes and fourth edition edited by John D. McDonald and Michael Levine-Clark came in 2017 also in seven volumes

Key Words : Volumes, Editions, Editor, Publication, Encyclopaedia.

1. Introduction :

It is a special type of encyclopaedia in which all information relating to library science are included. Its main objective is to compile all important information's related to Modern events and trends in library and information science. It is an important source in the field of library and information science.

2. Reviews :

Joseph C. Meredith published a "Review of Reviews" summarizing thirty-nine earlier reviews of the first edition. His findings mentions "omissions, errors, inaccuracies, and inconsistencies; inadequate cross references; lack of uniformity of style; lack of balance in the length of articles; inadequate references and bibliographies." He concludes that "although as an encyclopedia, the encyclopedia is a failure, it contains many excellent articles."

James D. Anderson reviewed the 2nd edition. He found that "Regretfully, many of the problems of the first edition have been inherited, even exacerbated, by the second edition" and concluded: "This new second edition turns out to be not so new after all, especially with regard to the most basic articles. It cannot be recommended, especially for libraries that own the first edition. Overall, it appears to be a spin-off aimed primarily at making money rather than describing the state of the art in the twenty-first century. It reminds us of the drug companies that change the color of a pill in order to get a brand new patent.

The third edition was reviewed by Tony Chalcraft He notes: "Of the 565 articles, more than 400 are completely new to this edition, amounting to about 70 percent of total material." Whereas ELIS2 was devoted solely to library and information science, ELIS3 addresses in addition "archival science, museum studies and records management...as well as...bibliography, informatics, information systems and social studies of information." He concludes: "unquestioned achievement collecting material on the wide field of library and information sciences unobtainable elsewhere. There is simply no other work that comes near it in scale or spread and for librarians and information specialists it must be regarded as the pre-eminent reference source for the profession." The editor-in-chief wrote about the scope of the work.

3. Authority :

Encyclopedia of library and information science was published by Marcel Dekker New York. The first thought of its publication came in mind in 1966. It started being published in the end of 1966 under the editorship of Allen Kent and Harald Lancour. It is now published in 54 volumes. It has supplementary volumes after two years. New York: Dekker 1968 Vols. 1-35

4. Scope:

Encyclopedia of library and information science includes the detailed study of all type of libraries (Public, academic, special) of the world. There are essays on all aspects of libraries. It also includes:

- Famous librarians.
- Famous Lib. & Sc. Teachers
- Famous important personalities of the field of Lib & inf. Science.
- It has given an account of life of important personalities who have given their valuable contribution in the field of libraries.

5. Index - the last volumes are Index. The whole encyclopedia covers 35 thousand pages.

6. Treatment – there is a mention of file sketch of the authors and also references which may make the readers aware of the related literature.

The index is divided into two parts:

- a) Author is index
- b) Subject index

Indexes include cross reference also. This encyclopedia also gives details of computer printing.

It also gives detailed study of the pioneers of library science like Ranganathan Dewey, Cutter and others.

7. Special Features :

The encyclopedia of library and information science has the following special features:

- a) Data Graphs, Diagrams, Index, tables are also used in the text
- b) It has supplementary volumes published to include and provide latest information. Its frequency is 2 years.
- c) It has a summary of all essays.
- d) It includes references wherever necessary

8. Arrangement :

The arrangement in encyclopedia of library and information science is alphabetical under the subject headings.

The index is also alphabetically arranged.

9. Physical Format :

- a) It has a Rixin binding
- b) It is an authentic and reliable encyclopedia in the field of library and information science.
- c) This encyclopedia is useful to the librarians scientists bibliographers document lists, analysis, researchers , students and teachers.
- d) It is the first encyclopedia of library and information science which is complete and informative as it gives detailed study and history of all events in details.

10. Demerits :

Though all efforts are being made to up to date it by publishing supplement volume even then there are many informations left and not included.

However it is an important encyclopedia and useful to all libraries.

11. Editions and volumes:

- The Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science. First edition, Vol. 1-73. 1968-2003. Edited by Allen Kent, Harold Lancour and Jay E. Daily. New York: Marcel Dekker.
 - ❖ Vol. 1: Accountability to Associcao Brasileira De Escolas De Biblioteconomia. 1968.
 - ❖ Vol. 2: Association Canadienne des Bibliotheques to Book World. 1969.
 - ❖ Vol. 4: Calligraphy to church. 1970
 - ❖ [13](#), 1975 (via Google Books)
 - ❖ [23](#), 1978
 - ❖ Vols. 46-47: indexes to v. 1-45.
 - ❖ Vol. 73: index to v. 48-72.
- The Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science. Second edition, Vol. 1-4. 2003. Edited by Miriam A. Drake. New York: Marcel Dekker. 2005 [ISBN 0849338948](#)
- Encyclopedia of library and information sciences. Third edition, Vol. 1-7. 2010. Edited by Marcia J. Bates and Mary Niles Maack. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press. [ISBN 084939712X](#)
- Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences Fourth edition, Vol. 1-7. 2017. Edited by John D. McDonald and Michael Levine-Clark. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press. [ISBN : 146655259](#)

12. Conclusion :

The *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences*, now in its fourth edition, compiles the contributions of major researchers and practitioners and explores the cultural institutions of more than 30 countries. This major reference presents over 550 entries extensively reviewed for accuracy in seven print volumes or online. The new fourth edition, which includes 55 new entries and 60 revised entries, continues to reflect the growing convergence among the disciplines

that influence information and the cultural record, with coverage of the latest topics as well as classic articles of historical and theoretical importance.

References:

1. Meredith, Joseph C. (1980). The Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science: a review of reviews, a summary evaluation and a suggested salvage operation. *Canadian Library Journal*, December issue, pp. 411–19.
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