

AALL Publications Series #73

PRACTICING REFERENCE

Thoughts for Librarians and Legal Researchers

BY MARY WHISNER



Author and Reference Librarian Mary Whisner offers a collection of her most popular essays originally published in her “Practicing Reference” column in *Law Library Journal* between 1999 and 2005.

“Reference work is challenging, exciting, interesting, fast-paced, and ever-changing—except when it’s exasperating, routine, and tedious. It calls on a wide variety of skills, knowledge, and abilities. Good reference librarians must be creative researchers, familiar, and facile with print and online resources.”

—Mary Whisner, *Introduction*

Packed with useful advice for legal researchers, librarians and students, Whisner’s essays have been updated where applicable, and the work is divided into three categories: *Part One: The Reference Interaction*; *Part Two: Developing, Growing, and Coping as a Reference Librarian*; and *Part Three: Research Techniques and Sources*.

In 27 topical chapters, the author offers sage advice and directs readers to “cool Web sites.” Whisner also stands by the “old-fashioned but still pertinent idea of books that people might sit down and read.” This work will be a valuable asset to all researchers on all skill levels—from the beginner to the most advanced.

“Mary Whisner has contributed an article about some aspect of reference work to almost every issue of Law Library Journal since 1999....Each piece is a delightful gem, perfect for reading in a single sitting. Picking just one is an impossible task (“so many great articles!!”) so read them all.”

- James Houdek, *The Essential Law Library Journal*, 166-167

Order yours from Hein today!

1 volume

Institutions.....*Please Inquire for Pricing*

Individuals and Students*Please Inquire for Pricing*

Item #11256; 300 pages; ISBN 9780837701653

Published: Buffalo; William S. Hein & Co., Inc.; 2006

AALL Publications Series #73 (visit www.wshein.com to review a complete list of titles in this series)



Table of Contents

Introduction: How This Book Came About and What to Expect in It

“Practicing Reference” Column

Why a Book?

Organization

Updating

Acknowledgments

Part One: The Reference Interaction

1. Finding Out What They Want to Know
2. Teaching the Art of the Reference Interview
 - Tips on Conducting an Effective Reference Interview
3. Celebrating the Virtues of Saying, “I Don’t Know”
4. On Asking for Help
5. Learning from Library Science
6. Re: Memos
 - Audience
 - How They Use the Memos
 - How We Use the Memos
7. On Not Doing Research
 - Project-Based Nonresearch
 - Role-Based Nonresearch
 - Day-to-Day Nonresearch
 - Less Than Complete Research
 - Concluding Words
8. Golf Buddy Reference Questions

Part Two: Developing, Growing and Coping as a Reference Librarian

9. On Having a Bad Day
 - Bad Day Factors
 - Other People
 - Objects
 - Interaction of BDFs
 - Dealing with Bad Days.
 - Coping Strategies
 - Reducing the Frequency of Bad Days
 - Lessening the Impact of Bad Days
 - Conclusion
10. Reference Librarians Do Not Work in Steel
11. Keeping Up Is Hard to Do
12. What Do You Do All Day
13. Learning a Little about the World: Foreign and International Research and the Nonspecialist
14. The Trouble with Utopia
15. Of Reference and Revelation (by Nancy McMurrer)
16. The Sensory Law Library
 - Vision
 - Hearing
 - Touch
 - Kinesthesia
 - Smell and Taste
 - Summing Up

Part Three: Research Techniques and Sources

17. Researching in an Imperfect World
18. Alphabetical Order and Other “Simple” Systems
 - Challenges of Alphabetical Order
 - Jurisdiction and Subject
 - Conclusion
19. Encounters with Sources
20. Bouvier’s, Black’s, and Tinkerbell
 - 2006 Postscript
21. These Are a Few of My Favorite Books
 - Statistical Abstract of the United States
 - International Lawyer’s Deskbook
 - West’s Analysis of American Law
 - Conclusion
22. Cool Web Sites
 - What’s a Cool Web Site?
 - Hazards of Writing about Web Sites
 - Finding Out about Cool Sites
 - Sharing My Finds
 - Cool Sites with Old News and New
 - Keeping Track of Handy Sites
 - Conclusion
23. What’s in a Statute Name?
 - Let’s Call It the Sherman Act
 - Including Short Titles in the Statute Makes Things Easier
 - When Did Popular Names Tables Come into Use?
 - Statutory Poster Children
 - Clever Acronyms
 - Conclusion
 - Table 1
24. When Judges Scold Lawyers
 - Word of Mouth
 - Keyword Searching
 - Shepard’s and KeyCite As Search Terms—and What They Turn Up
 - Other Word Searches
 - Search Terms Based on Legal Concepts
 - Key Number Searches
 - Search Advisor Searches
 - Conclusion
25. Researching Outside the Box
26. Story Time in the Law Library
 - Stories in Cases
 - Stories in Statutes
 - Other Sources for Finding Legal Stories
27. “Good Reads” in the Law Library?

Cost of Carriage Not Included; New York State, Colorado State and GST Taxes Where Applicable

WILLIAM S. HEIN & CO., INC.

Serviens Integritate

Law Publisher / Serial & Subscription Agent / Micropublisher / New and Used Law Books / Preservation Printer / Electronic Legal Research Provider

2350 N. Forest Rd. Getzville, NY 14068 ~ (716) 882-2600 ~ TOLL FREE (800) 828-7571 ~ Fax (716) 883-8100

E-Mail heincite@wshein.com ~ Web Site www.wshein.com