

# Reference Universe

Pete McDonnell & Kellian Clink

# Questions to Ponder...

- Do you think your reference collection is optimally used?
- What are some of the “unsung heroes” and “trustworthy work horses” of your reference collection?

# What is REFERENCE UNIVERSE?

- Indexing to your reference collection, positioning those with most indexing at top of listing.
- Links through to your online catalog, for the call numbers
- Limiters can be used to make your search more precise
- Cost: MSU--\$1895/yr

# Why Explore Ref Universe?

- Reference Universe can be a way to know the contents of reference books.
- Reference Universe can be a way to find gaps in your collection
- Reference books are good starting points for college students: contain expert opinion, concise context, and a “place to go next”
- Average allocation of \$50,000 for reference collection, want to get use out of it.
- Good excuse to dig around in the reference collection!

# Reference Universe

- Library catalogs have limited information about the content of a reference work
- Reference Universe serves as a cumulative index to content in over 10,000 specialized encyclopedias and handbooks (print and electronic)
- Covers all disciplines, over 10,000 works published from 1985-present
- RU indexes both back-of-the-book indexes and article titles
- Relevance ranking algorithm may be more effective than a standard keyword search in OPAC
  - *(This information taken from Reference Universe web site)*

# Some libraries that subscribe

Albion College  
Arizona State University  
Arkansas State Library  
Art Institute of Chicago  
Auraria Library  
Baylor University  
Berry College  
Bloomfield Township Public Library  
Boise State University  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Brigham Young University  
British Library  
Broward Community College  
Brown University  
Bryn Mawr College  
California Digital Library  
California State University-Fullerton  
California State University-Long Beach  
California State University-Pomona  
Cardozo Law Library  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Catholic University of America  
Central Connecticut State University  
Central Missouri State University  
Century College

Century College  
The Citadel  
Clemson University  
Cleveland State University  
Colby College  
Colgate University  
College of Charleston  
College of New Jersey  
College of St. Scholastica  
College of William and Mary  
College of Wooster  
Colorado College  
Columbia University  
Community College of Philadelphia  
Cornell University  
Dallas County Community College District  
Dartmouth College  
Davidson College  
Denison University  
Drew University  
Duke University  
Earlham College  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
Eastern Michigan University  
Emory University  
Florida Atlantic University  
Florida International University  
Franklin & Marshall College  
Garland Independent School

George Mason University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia State University  
Goucher College  
Hamilton College  
Hanover College  
Harvard University  
Haverford College  
Hillsdale College  
Hiram College  
Hofstra University  
Indiana University at Bloomington  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
James Madison University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Lane County Community College  
Largo Library  
Lewis & Clark College  
Library of Congress  
Marquette University  
McGill University  
McNeese State University  
Memorial U University of Newfoundland  
Messiah College  
Miami University  
Middlebury College  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Minneapolis Public Library  
Minnesota State University, Mankato  
Mississippi Library Commission  
Morehead State University  
Montana State University  
Mount Holyoke College  
Mount Union College  
Muhlenberg College

# Publishers

- ABC-CLIO
- Academic Press
- American Chemical Society
- AMS
- Backbeat
- Billboard
- Berkley
- Charles Scribner's
- Corwin
- CQ
- Facts on File
- Gale
- Garland
- Greenwood
- Houghton-Mifflin
- Information Science Publishing
- Lucent Books
- MacMillan
- McFarland
- Nolo
- M E Sharpe
- Oryx
- Osprey
- Oxford
- Praeger
- Routledge
- Sage
- Scarecrow
- Smithsonian
- St. Martin's
- United Nations

# Study description

- 100 freshman Composition topics; chose 50 for the study, trying for disciplinary balance
- Eliminated electronic reference books but included all works (not just those at MSU) to gauge what we *didn't* see
- Simple terms—search like an uninitiated user
- Looked to see how helpful Reference Universe would be to a novice library user.
- Wanted to explore Ref Universe as collection development tool as well
- Excuse to get to know the reference collection better



# Limitations of our study

- We used a convenience sampling: we only used resources available at Minnesota State University, Mankato (Summer '08, RU updated every two weeks)
- Academic collections; search through public library might get very different results
- We used BRIEF phrases to search
- We were modeling how an uninitiated student might search, not how an expert would search (e.g., didn't limit by date)
- Dependent on 1) quality of indexing & 2) sources that have bought into Reference Universe

# Some of the topics

Hazing

Birth control Pill

HPV Vaccine

Autism

Evolution

Medicare

Global Warming

Stem Cell Research

Steroid Use in Sports

Binge Drinking

Hemp based paper

Organic food

Water sanitation

Genetic discrimination

Recess

ADHD

Steroids

Charter schools

Alchemy

Chinese Culture

Professional Gaming

Glass Blowing

Deep Sea Diving

Boston Red Sox

Raising Puppies

Tsunamis

Five Points of New York

Spring break

Fashion

Surfing

Hybrid Cars

Snowboarding

Child Abuse

Stem Cell Research

Open adoption

Water quality in Minnesota

School shootings

# Ranking Criteria

- 1 Useless = less than a page, a mention but not very helpful information.
- 2 Okay = okay, less than 3 pages, no bibliography, an okay starter point
- 3 Good = helpful, around 3 + pages, bibliography
- 4 Also noted “Don’t own”

# Inter-rater reliability

- We did five independently to see if we thought we ranked them the same, which we did.
- Doing them meant going to the reference book, looking at the actual entry, not relying just on indexes or chapter headings.

# Reference Universe

## ReferenceUniverse™

[About](#) [Help](#) [Title List](#)



Search Term(s):

**Search**

Search As:

- singular and plural forms
- exact phrase
- exact words

### Search Citations Containing:

- all of the words (and)
- any of the words (or)

**Display all Reference Universe Works**

**Begin Search**

**Use Browse Mode**

The Cumulative Index to Reference Works

# Sample Page

Items 1 through 20 of 318

Page 1 of 16.  to page

Select  
Record

Reference Work

- 1  [The St. James encyclopedia of mortgage & real estate finance](#)  
1991 St. James Press [HG2040.N48 1991] | [About this Work](#)
- 2  [Encyclopedia of mortgage & real estate finance : over 1,000 terms defined, explained, and illustrated](#)  
1991 Probus Pub. Co. [HG2040.N48 1991] | [About this Work](#)
- 3  [Guide to real estate & mortgage banking software](#)  
1988 Real Estate Solutions [HD1380.G85 1988] | [About this Work](#)
- 4  [The Encyclopedia of Housing](#)  
1998 Sage Publications [HD7287.E53 1998] | [View 122 Index Entries](#) | [About this Work](#)
- 5  [Housing Statistics of the United States, Fourth Edition](#)  
2001 Bernan [HD7293.A1H654] | [View 80 Index Entries](#) | [About this Work](#)
- 6  [West's Encyclopedia of American Law, edition 2](#)  
 2004 Gale [KF154.W47 2004] | [View 56 Index Entries](#) | [About this Work](#)
- 7  [West's Encyclopedia of American Law, edition 2](#)  
2004 Gale [KF154.W47 2004] | [View 56 Index Entries](#) | [About this Work](#)
- 8  [Gale Encyclopedia of Everyday Law](#)  
 2002 Gale [KF387.G27 2003] | [View 50 Index Entries](#) | [View 2 Articles](#) | [About this Work](#)


# Examples: Notable Sports Figures

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Ty Cobb

**Chronology**

- 1886 Born in Narrows, Georgia
- 1904 Joins Augusta Tourists of the South Atlantic League
- 1905 Joins Detroit Tigers
- 1905 W.H. Cobb is shot to death by Amanda Cobb
- 1906 Amanda Cobb found innocent of manslaughter
- 1907 Tigers win the first of three American League pennants
- 1907-19 Cobb wins 12 American League batting titles
- 1908 Marries Charlie Marion Lombard
- 1909 Causes uproar when he spikes Philadelphia's Frank Baker
- 1910 Cobb's first child, Tyrus Raymond Cobb Jr., born
- 1912 Enters stands in New York City to attack heckler Claude Luckner
- 1912 Plays lead in stage play *The College Widow*
- 1915 Cobb sets long-standing record of 96 stolen bases in single season
- 1915 Becomes highest paid player in baseball
- 1916 Stars in film *Somewhere in Georgia*
- 1918 Joins Chemical Warfare Service
- 1921 Becomes player-manager of Detroit Tigers
- 1926 Resigns as player and manager
- 1926 Accused of game-fixing and betting on baseball games
- 1927 Signs with Philadelphia Athletics
- 1928 Leaves baseball for good
- 1936 Becomes first player inducted into Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown
- 1945 Endows the Cobb Memorial Hospital in Royston, Georgia
- 1947 Divorces Charlie Cobb
- 1948 Marries Francis Fairburn
- 1953 Establishes the Cobb Educational Fund
- 1955 Divorces Francis Fairburn
- 1960 Starts working on his autobiography with Al Stump
- 1961 Dies in Atlanta

title with a .326 batting average; he was the first in the league ever to get 100 hits in a season; and his 40 stolen bases was third best in the league. He joined the Tigers for the last month of the season. During the next five years Cobb would single-handedly make Detroit over from the weakest market for baseball to the most lucrative. Cobb's play with the Tigers that year alternated between brilliance, foolhardiness and embarrassment. He lashed hits, ran into foolish outs and interfered with his own fielders. But he brought an element of excitement that few fans had ever experienced in baseball.

Despite being called up to the big leagues, 1905 and 1906 would be among the most difficult years of Cobb's life. In August, when he was preparing to join the Tigers, personal tragedy struck. His father was shot to death, and the killer was Cobb's own mother. Amanda Cobb thought her husband, who was climbing in her bedroom window at night, was a prowler, and in March 1906 she was found not guilty. W.H. Cobb's unexpected death robbed Cobb of the family member he was closest to, and possibly the only one capable of exerting a steadying influence on the headstrong youth. It also denied Cobb the chance to prove to his father that he had made good in baseball.

Cobb's difficulties did not end with his return to the Tigers in spring 1906. At a time when rookie ballplayers were routinely hazed by veteran players, the Tigers'

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# Men and Masculinities

n a patently contrived and yet often extremely effective pretext.

Kirby D. Schroeder

See also Hazing, High School and College

## Further Reading:

- Herdt, Gilbert H. 1998. *Rituals of Manhood: Male Initiation in Papua New Guinea*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.
- Morinis, Alan. 1985. "The Ritual Experience: Pain and the Transformation of Consciousness in Ordeals of Initiation." *Ethos* 13, no. 2: 150-174.
- Nuwer, Hank. 2001. *Wrongs of Passage: Fraternities, Sororities, Hazing, and Binge Drinking*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.
- Sweet, Stephen. 1999. "Understanding Fraternity Hazing: Insights from Symbolic Interactionist Theory." *Journal of College Student Development* 40, no. 4: 355-365.



good

## Hazing, High School and College

Hazing refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. In years past, hazing practices were typically considered harmless pranks or comical antics associated with young men in college fraternities. In the early twenty-first century we know that hazing extends far beyond college fraternities and is experienced by males and females in school groups, university organizations, athletic teams, and military and other social and professional organizations, causing emotional and physical harm and even death. Hazing practices are shaped by power dynamics operating in a group and/or organization within a particular cultural context. As such, hazing also reflects societal norms and expectations around gender and masculinity, in particular.

Behavior that would meet today's definition of hazing has been documented among male educational and military groups for centuries. The term *hazing* however was not commonly used in the United States until the

## Hazing, High School and College 375

Civil War period when it emerged as a descriptor of initiation jokes played on newcomers to the ranks of the military. After the Civil War, the term *hazing* was used to describe practices of initiating new students to the university and maintaining order within the established hierarchy between classes of students (i.e., upperclassmen vs. freshmen). Such activities typically included expectations of personal servitude and other displays of subordination to students in the upper ranks. Occasionally however, hazing involved what was termed "disorderly conduct" and sometimes escalated into physical brawls causing serious injuries and even fatalities (Nuwer 1999).

Hazing practices in the early 2000s continue to reflect the masculine historical roots of military units and universities. However, documentation of hazing in high schools, organized athletics, as well as professional groups like police academies and firefighting units has grown considerably. Over the last century, and especially the last three decades of the twentieth century, awareness and concern about the dangers of hazing has increased, marked for example by its inclusion in many school and university codes of student conduct. Since the 1970s there has been at least one student fatality each year involving hazing (Nuwer 1999, 237). Such tragedies often led to increased public scrutiny and sometimes resulted in the passage of statutory legislation rendering hazing a criminal act. In the United States in 2003, forty-four states have enacted antihazing laws that vary widely in scope and consequence but are typically restricted to behavior occurring in educational arenas.

Hazing activities are generally considered to be physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating. The specific behaviors or activities within these categories vary widely among participants, groups, and settings. Alcohol use is common in nearly all types of hazing. Other examples of typical hazing practices include: personal servitude; sleep



# M & M

- American Novelists Revisited: Essays in Feminist Criticism*. Edited by Fritz Fleischmann. Boston: G. K. Hall.
- Erlich, Gloria C. 1984. *Family Themes and Hawthorne's Fiction: The Tenacious Web*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- Heilbrun, Carolyn G. 1973. *Toward a Recognition of Androgyny*. New York: Knopf.
- Herbert, T. Walter, Jr. 1993. *Dearest Beloved: The Hawthornes and the Making of the Middle-Class Family*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- . 2002. *Sexual Violence and American Manhood*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Leverenz, David. 1989. *Manhood and the American Renaissance*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Martin, Robert K. 1990. "Hester Prynne, C'est Moi: Nathaniel Hawthorne and the Anxieties of Gender." Pp. 122–139 in *Engendering Men: The Question of Male Feminist Criticism*. Edited by Joseph A. Boone and Michael Cadden. New York: Routledge.
- Miller, Edwin Haviland. 1993. *Salem Is My Dwelling Place: A Life of Nathaniel Hawthorne*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press.
- Traister, Bryce. 2000. "Academic Viagra: The Rise of American Masculinity Studies." *American Quarterly* 52, no. 2: 114–138.

## Hazing

Hazing refers to violent or abusive forms of initiation ritual within many military, Greek, and other masculine-typed organizations (including some populated partially or wholly by women). In its pure form, hazing is a highly structured behavior that can be identified and understood by a specific set of criteria that separate it from other social behaviors that are simply painful, humiliating, or mean. Although hazing often has these attributes, its structural nature makes it a fundamentally different category of performance. The general concept of hazing is

The quality that differentiates hazing from other superficially similar behaviors is the specific co-occurrence of *structured ritual*, *collectively perceived purpose*, and a *unidirectional form of abuse*. Not all social rituals are abusive and some that are abusive are not purposeful. Similarly, some social practices may be reciprocative, rather than unidirectional, or relatively unstructured. Hazing, by contrast, is characterized by all three qualities.

The body of literature on human ritual is enormous, but hazing rituals belong in the subcategory of *rituals of initiation*. Like all such rituals, hazing typically requires a distinct and dichotomous set of individuals: those who *have* power, authority, experience, and group-identity and those who are attempting to *earn* these attributes. Like all true rituals (and unlike most customs or folkways), hazing rituals are limited by time and place, have a definite beginning and end, and usually include a well-rehearsed or at least well-planned script. The overall hazing "process" may include a series of rituals each of which contributes to the perceived organizational project of turning initiates into members, recruits into soldiers, and pledges into "brothers" and "sisters."

Many behaviors commonly identified as hazing lack the essential element of consciously and collectively perceived purpose. Hazing distinguishes itself from other activities in that those participating in the process, both as perpetrator and as recipient, consciously perceive a reason—however expedient or rational—for the practice. This reason is sometimes as simple as the mechanical and highly effective transposition of *meaning* and *experience*: anything suffered for must be worth suffering for; greater suffering equates to greater worth; the more we have suffered together, the more we must value each other

good

# Results 1-5

- One *good*, three *don't own* (Conflict Diamonds)
- One *good*, three *useless*, one *don't own* (Hazing)
- Four *good*, one *don't own*
- Three *good*, two *don't own* (Evolution)
- One *good*, one *useless*, three *don't own* (Music Downloading)

# Results 6-10

- Two *useless*, less than a page (Funding Art Education)
- Two *good*, one *okay*, two *don't own* (Methamphetamines)
- Two *good*, three *don't own* (Wiretapping)
- Three *good*, two *okay*, one *useless* (Minimum Wage)
- One *okay*, two *useless*, two *don't have* (Gender/Professions)

# Results 11-15

- Three *good*, one *okay*, one *don't own* (Homeschooling)
- Three *goods*, two *okay* (Medical Malpractice)
- One *good*, one *don't own*, one *mystery*--not in OPAC (Salary Cap/Sports)
- Five *good* (Media Violence)
- Three *good*, two *don't own* (Global Warming)

# Results 16-20

- Two *good*, one *okay*, two *don't own* (Stem Cell Research)
- One *good*, one *okay*, three *don't own* (Binge Drinking)
- Three *good*, one *useless*, one *don't own* (Organic Food)
- Three *good*, two *don't own* (Genetic Discrimination)
- Three *good*, two *okay* (Logging)

# Results 21-25

- Two *useless* (Recess/School)
- Four *good*, one *don't own* (ADHD)
- One *good*, one *useless*, two *don't own* (Hockey/Safety)
- No hits (Rehab/Ex-cons;  
Rehabilitation/Prisoners worked better)
- Three *good*, one *okay*, one *don't own* (Renewable Energy)

# Results 26-30

- Three *good*, One *good* unexpected (Affirmative Action)
- One *good*, four *don't own* (Social Security)
- Three *good*, two *don't own*, no surprises (Gambling)
- Three *we don't own* (Puppy Mills)
- Three *good*, two *don't own* (Natural Disasters)

# Results 31-35

- Four *don't own*, one *good* unexpected (Hybrid Cars)
- Two *okay*, three *don't own* (Snowboarding)
- Four *don't own*, one *okay* (Presidential Race),
- Three *goods*, two *don't own* (Smoking Bans)
- One *don't own* (Stadium Financing)



# Results 36-40

- Four *good*, one *don't own* (Refugees)
- Four *good*, one *don't own* (Immigration)
- One *good*, one missing from the shelf, three *don't own* (Obesity Epidemic)
- Three *good*, two *don't own* (Eating Disorders in College)
- Three *good*, two *don't own* (Capital Punishment)

# Results 41-45

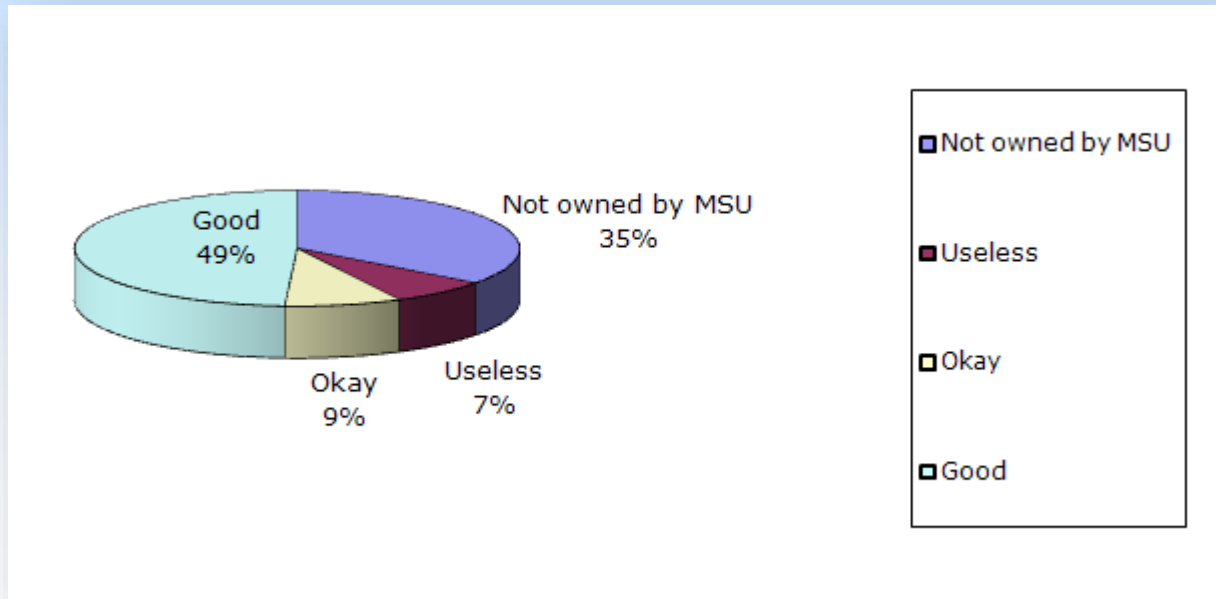
- Three *good*, two *don't own* (Japanese-American Internment)
- Three *good*, two *don't own* (Child Abuse)
- Four *good*, one *okay* (Open Adoption)
- Two *good*, three *don't own* (Water Quality)
- Three *good*, two *don't own* (School Shootings)

# Results 46-50

- Five *good* (Charter Schools)
- Three *good*, one *okay*, one *don't own* (Spanking)
- Four *don't own*, one *useless* (Identity Theft)
- Three *good*, two *useless* (Racism)
- Five *good* (Eugenics)

# Pattern Recognition

- Total ratings across all topics showed about half were “good”, useful sources with bibliographies



# Pattern Recognition

- OPAC Keyword searches (w/Reference limit) vs. Ref Universe:
  - 23% of the “good” hits in RU were also found in OPAC search
  - OPAC search found fewer “good” hits overall; but, also found different relevant resources
  - OPAC searches may get to the newer additions to your reference collection more efficiently
- Different search algorithms = Different results

# Unexpected Gems from RU

- West's Encyclopedia of American Law for Affirmative Action; Wiretapping
- Encyclopedia of School Psychology for Spanking; Autism
- Conflicts Over Natural Resources for Conflict Diamonds
- Men and Masculinities for Hazing
- Encyclopedia of Protestantism for Homeschooling
- West's Encyclopedia of Everyday Law for Medical Malpractice
- Encyclopedia of Bioethics for Stem Cell Research
- Total Hockey Encyclopedia for Hockey Safety
- Work in America for Minimum Wage
- Encyclopedia of Interest Groups and Lobbyists for Minimum Wage
- Encyclopedia of Major Marketing Campaigns for Hybrid Cars
- Encyclopedia of Recreation and Leisure in America for Snowboarding
- Encyclopedia of Childbearing for Open Adoption
- New Dictionary of the History of Ideas for Eugenics

# Pattern Recognition

- Most of the books we didn't own are public library kinds of reference books?
- Examples: *Consumer's Guide to Social Security, Gambling, What's at Stake, Teen Guide to Environmental Science*

# Pattern Recognition

- Many of the things I found through RU I would have found through keywords I found in the titles of the works, but I am not sure if more complex searches would have found more utility in RU.



# Conclusions Drawn

- Pete's perspective: Reference, some Instruction and "techie" experience; newbie to MSU and its collections
- Relevance ranking of BOTB indexes vs. keyword searching of catalog records
- OPAC performs better for new additions
- RU could help the novice searcher

# Reference Universe

- We welcome your **Questions and Comments !**
- Tell us some of your **favorite reference sources**, and we will send the list out to everyone