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SLC/ARBA Announces 2017 Best of Reference Award Winners

Santa Barbara, Calif. (June 22, 2017)—**School Library Connection** (SLC) and **American Reference Books Annual** (ARBA) have announced the winners of the sixth annual SLC/ARBA Best of Reference Award, which recognizes reference resources, including books, databases, and eBooks, that encourage K–12 student research and learning.

School Library Connection (SLC) and **American Reference Books Annual** (ARBA) both provide school librarians with reviews for building the collection that best complements school curricula, enables comprehensive student research, and promotes critical thinking.

For the Best of Reference Award, a hand-selected panel of 10 respected reviewers and editors evaluated all submissions to identify outstanding resources in the areas of resources for children (elementary grades), resources for youth (secondary grades), electronic reference (database or eBook), and professional guides for school or youth librarians. While making their selections, judges considered curriculum connections, authority, objectivity, organization, depth of coverage, and currency.

“These Best of Reference Award winners represent the best of the best in resources for K–12 students and school librarians,” said David Paige, Managing Editor of **School Library Connection**. “Narrowing down dozens of entries deserving recognition this year was a challenge for our judges, but choosing these winners serves an important dimension of our mission: giving librarians tools to expand their collections knowledgably in ways that enhance student learning and help teach research skills. Congratulations to all of the individuals behind this year’s winners—authors, editors, and publishers working together to create these outstanding reference resources that clearly demonstrate their collective commitment to quality.”

These are the 2017 SLC/ARBA Best of Reference Award winners and honorable mentions, listed by category:

Best Resource for Children (Elementary Grades)

Winner: *Alpha, Bravo, Charlie: The Complete Book of Nautical Codes* (Phaidon)

“[A] unique and fascinating introduction to how ships communicate across expanses of water and across all the world’s languages, countries, and cultures. Even young readers who live nowhere near the water will find it interesting to learn you can express yourself with a flag, a tap, or a light signal. . . . Here’s a reference book that educates young readers about the important role of shipping across the globe (and a possible future career) while also fostering a fascination with codes and communicating in new and different ways.”—Dr. Sylvia Vardell, Texas Woman’s University

Honorable Mentions: *The Hello Atlas* (Wide Eyed Editions) and *The Ultimate Oceanpedia* (National Geographic)

Best Resource for Youth (Secondary Grades)

Winner: *World War II: The Definitive Encyclopedia and Document Collection* (ABC-CLIO)

“This five-volume comprehensive encyclopedia and document collection is simply awesome in its vast coverage of



World War II. Not only does it have full and complete entries for countless people, issues, armaments, and more, it also gives reference citations at the end of each entry. In this age of “fake news” it is good to demonstrate for students the ethical way to show authenticity. [A large number of maps] help to provide a visual context to those who otherwise could not comprehend the myriad of places affected by this war. The primary documents for accords, moving speeches, and decisions allows students to “do history” rather than just study it. The volumes thoroughly discuss the causes and effects of the ‘good war.’ This depth of coverage provides all that would be necessary for a high school or college research project and more.”—Liz Deskins, Hilliard Bradley High School, OH

Honorable Mentions: *Energy in Context* (Gale/Cengage Learning) and *Resisting the Holocaust: Upstanders, Partisans, and Survivors* (ABC-CLIO)

Best Electronic Reference Resource (Database or eBook)

Winner: *Exploring Issues* (ReferencePoint Press)

“The online database resource *Exploring Issues* from ReferencePoint Digital allows students to easily research a variety of topics in an easy-to-navigate, resourceful, and engaging platform. This valuable resource is very affordable for schools, which allows students, teachers, and librarians to enhance their online resource collection and increases access to reputable, timely information. . . . The fresh approach and layout of this resource makes this an outstanding resource for students, teachers, and librarians.”—Angela Wojtecki, Nordonia Hills City Schools, OH

Honorable Mentions: *World Religions Online* (Infobase) and *American History* (ABC-CLIO)

Best Professional Resource for School or Youth Librarians

Winner: *Information and Digital Literacies: A Curricular Guide for Middle and High School Librarians* (Rowman & Littlefield)

“In an age where the need for students to be information literate has reached critical mass, this book provides insight into this important issue as well as practical ways for it to be addressed in middle and high school libraries. *Information and Digital Literacies* is designed to help school librarians integrate these topics systematically into daily instruction. Despite the need for a comprehensive standardized curriculum for information and digital literacy, most school librarians are left to struggle with determining ways to provide that instruction at their local schools. Dr. Farmer addresses those needs by providing a comprehensive resource that ties standards and curriculum together in a logical sequence through the implementation of various learning activities.”—Jennifer Helfrich, Gwinnett County Public Schools, GA

Honorable Mentions: *Neal-Schuman Library Technology Companion*, 5th Ed. (ALA Neal-Schuman) and *Defending Frequently Challenged Young Adult Books* (Rowman & Littlefield)

About School Library Connection

A dual-format resource composed of a tangible print magazine and interactive online opportunities for professional development, **School Library Connection** combines research and inspiration from leaders in the library profession. **School Library Connection** subscribers know that student learning soars when librarians stay at the top of their



practice. Topic centers curated by respected editors and prominent school library professionals Carl A. Harvey II, MS; Leslie B. Preddy, MS; and Rebecca J. Morris, PhD, give insights in the areas of Organization and Management,

Instructional Leadership, and Library in Context, respectively, while Sylvia Vardell, PhD, and Liz Deskins, MA, provide expert leadership to the reVIEWS+ portal of reviews written by librarians, for librarians, assisting librarians everywhere in building the collection that best meets the needs of their learning community.

About Libraries Unlimited: Publisher of American Reference Books Annual (ARBA)

For more than 50 years, Libraries Unlimited has served academic, public, school, and special libraries by producing library science textbooks, reference works, practical handbooks, and professional guides of unparalleled quality. Today, with more than 2,000 publications in both print and electronic formats, Libraries Unlimited continues its mission to cultivate and maintain a supportive community where librarians, archivists, and information specialists can learn about and discuss leading-edge trends and acquire new skills through every phase of their careers. Libraries Unlimited began a new chapter in 2008, becoming an imprint under the publishing umbrella of ABC-CLIO, LLC. For more information about SLC, Libraries Unlimited, or ABC-CLIO, please visit www.abc-clio.com/LibrariesUnlimited.aspx.