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Book Review of The Law Library Reference Shelf

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541. Matthews, Elizabeth W. **The Law Library Reference Shelf: Annotated Subject Guide**. Buffalo, N.Y., William S. Hein, 1988. 127p. index. \$37.50. KF1.M33. 016.34973. LC 88-21234. ISBN 0-89941-645-4.

Matthews's work is an annotated listing of approximately 350 reference works held by the Southern Illinois University School of Law Library. The focus is on national and international works; individual state materials are not included.

The table of contents lists 38 subject categories under which annotations can be found. Additional access is provided through the author/title index. Unfortunately, there is no detailed subject index. The brief annotations are, for the most part, descriptive rather than analytical. While they provide general information about the content of particular works, the reader would benefit from more critical annotations. The reader also should not forget that this volume is drawn from the collection of a medium-sized law library. Consequently, there may be many valuable reference sources that are not included herein.

Notwithstanding its limitations, this work is a valuable addition to legal bibliography. It will prove most helpful to librarians, particularly law librarians, who want to assess an existing collection of law-related reference materials or to build a new reference collection. It is recommended for most law libraries and for other libraries with law-related reference collections.—JAMES S. HELLER