Book Review of The U.S. Supreme Court: A Bibliography

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This work is an unannotated listing of research sources on the history, development, and powers of the Court. The authors acknowledge an emphasis on "research monographs, articles from major journals, and dissertations" as source materials. Although some research reports are included, U.S. government documents were intentionally excluded.

The bibliography begins with a guide to research. Although not totally comprehensive, the text and accompanying lists will prove very helpful to researchers. Divided into 14 chapters, the first part of the work provides bibliographic citations to materials on the history, work, and organization of the Court. Resources in specific subject areas such as civil liberties, equal rights, due process, regulation, and education are also included. The second part of the bibliography lists materials written about each of the Court's 104 justices.

For ease of use, Martin and Goehlert include an author and subject index. Unfortunately, sources listed in the research guide, which include texts, bibliographies, directories, and online databases, are not indexed. Unless a research source also appears in the bibliographic section, the reader's only access is by reading the text of the research guide.

The authors acknowledge that their work is not totally comprehensive; even so, unintentional omissions inevitably appear. And although their work is not designed to address constitutional interpretation by the Court, where Martin and Goehlert draw the line is not always clear. Still, The U.S. Supreme Court will be an important tool for Court watchers and researchers and is recommended for both academic and law libraries. [R: LJ, 15 Nov 90, p. 67; WLB, Dec 90, p. 156]—James S. Heller