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Author

Wade, Kenneth

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Bibliography of Native American Bibliographies. Compiled by Phillip M. White. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004. 241 pages. \$89.95 cloth.

In this work, librarian Phillip M. White compiles a unique and useful tool for those engaged in bibliographic research on Native American tribes and topics. This single volume provides citations for bibliographies published through 2003 in a variety of formats and types of materials. The brief "Introduction to General Bibliographies" must be noted, as it provides useful advice for going beyond the listings in the present work. After an initial listing of relevant general bibliographies and guides to the literature, the citations are organized by tribes and topics in a single, interfiled alphabetical listing. The entries are listed by author name within each tribal or topical category. White annotates each of the 843 numbered entries. An index of entries by tribes, topics, authors, and editors is provided.

Upon seeing the title of this work one might be tempted to think it contains citations to all bibliographies published to date on Native American tribes and subjects. Even if a comprehensive listing were assembled, the closer its approach to perfection, the less useful it would be for the vast majority of researchers, as it would be cluttered with many relatively useless entries. Fortunately Phillip White did not succumb to this temptation. His introduction informs us of his intention to "list all significant published bibliographies" and include large, stable Web sites serving "as master web sites in Native American studies" (xv). The introduction goes on to explain the reasons for excluding some types of bibliographies from the present "master bibliography," and users of this work would do well to refer to this introduction whenever they believe a work should have been included in a given category. White's exclusion criteria are sensible: make the work usable and contribute to attaining his goal of creating "a reference guide to be used through the years by researchers in American Indian studies" (xviii).

White misses very few substantial bibliographies within his selection criterion, and so it is unclear why the three-volume work, *American Indian and Alaska Native Newspapers and Periodicals*, by Daniel F. Littlefield Jr. and James W. Parins is not included in this book. The omission is made doubly curious by White's entry 722, which lists a chapter in a book describing the research process leading to the creation of Littlefield and Parins' monumental work. In his annotation White classifies the then-forthcoming work a bibliography; thus he is clearly acquainted with Littlefield and Parins' work. Either this is an accidental exclusion, or he believes *American Indian and Alaska Native Newspapers and Periodicals* meets his exclusion criterion in some manner we have simply failed to perceive.

The categories used to organize this bibliography help make the work easy to use and reflect the topics for which substantial bibliographies exist. Categories for tribes and states are necessary and exist as warranted. In some instances, the categories appear to have been thoughtfully constructed, providing better access to the topics of the bibliographies listed under them. It might have been easier for White to have a simplistic category entitled "Law," with many items listed within it. Instead, we have topical categories (for example, "laws," "criminal justice and crime," "sovereignty") having to do with law but distinguished as

individual categories. The bibliographies listed within each of these categories are more easily located because White groups them in these useful, distinct ways. Yet even the best topical groupings are bound to fail to gather together in a single location all relevant listings for some kinds of topics. With one exception—White’s bibliography of the tribes of San Diego County—each bibliography is listed in only one location. The index in White’s bibliography brings the listings together in additional helpful ways. For example, the index entry for “Northwest Coast” lists several entry numbers for listings that are not adjacent to each other in the body of the bibliography, as well as providing a “See also” reference to several other index terms. At the same time, the index listing for “Northwest Coast” maintains maximum effectiveness by not listing the tribes within the area for which entries exist in this bibliography. It is easy enough to locate the specific entries for these tribes.

White does many researchers a particular favor in listing so many bibliographies appearing as articles in journals or portions of larger works. Researchers may not always think of journal articles as a source of bibliographies that can stand on their own merits as independent works, and White brings many of these to our attention. In recent years, journal articles, and the independent bibliographies therein, can often be found with relative ease through electronic versions of indexing and abstracting tools and electronic databases. This can be less true for the contents of larger works, such as chapters in a book, and several such bibliographies are listed in this master bibliography. White’s judicious selection of bibliographies from the vast pool of Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) documents is also very helpful, possibly saving researchers considerable time and energy.

Phillip White’s master bibliography would be welcome if it were simply a listing of Native American bibliographies, but it is his annotations to the entries that make the volume an extraordinarily useful work. The annotations for many entries provide a great amount of detail about the contents and features of the bibliographies. These details may include information such as tribes covered; topical or structural organization of the entries, often including a list of topics or structures by which the bibliography is organized; dates of coverage; sources of citations; number of entries; types of materials included or excluded; and the absence or presence and length of annotations. White’s annotations often provide information on the intended audience for the bibliography, which can be of immense value in helping researchers decide if a particular bibliography is suited for their own purposes. Useful in a similar way are the annotations that explain the purpose underlying the creation of a given bibliography. Within particular topical categories one finds works by the same compiler/author. With a high degree of consistency the annotations explain the relationships between or among related works, which makes it easy to determine which work or group of works one should consult.

An interesting aspect of White’s annotations is the choice of words used to convey the merit of the bibliography being commented upon. Bibliographies of particular importance or usefulness and those of high quality are clearly noted to be so. In a number of annotations one wonders if White is trying to hint at his evaluative judgment rather than being direct. In the annotations,

the word *attempts*, used to describe the intentions of various entries, begins to leap from the page. White makes the same point in various other ways too, so I am not suggesting he should have used his thesaurus more frequently. Rather, one can commend White for his diplomatic tone in these instances while being grateful for what seem to be helpful hints in the annotations. The user of White's work should not overinterpret these hints, as the overwhelming impression is that the annotations are objective.

Two categories of annotations in White's master bibliography can fail to meet the high standards he sets. Curiously, some of the less helpful annotations are for several very good bibliographies previously published by White. In the annotations for his own works White does not provide the user with the useful details found in the descriptions of so many entries, such as organizational scheme, indexes, and the presence of a list of core works. This might be understandable in several entries (each entirely appropriate) for White's *Bibliography of the Indians of San Diego County*, where a single, lengthier annotation could suffice. The compiler does the users of his master bibliography a disservice with the brevity of the annotations for his other fine works. Similarly, the annotations to several titles in the bibliography series originating from the Newberry Library are overly brief at times. On the one hand, the organization of the titles in this series is similar, though the series and descriptive annotations can easily become repetitive for the annotator and the reader. On the other hand, it is unlikely that most users of this book will read it cover to cover. Researchers and librarians alike may be more likely to focus on particular topics, tribes, or regions, where a too brief annotation will not do justice to some of the Newberry Library series titles. In this case, some repetition might have better served the users of this compilation.

In working through the length of White's master bibliography one notices too many copy-editing errors that should have been caught by the publisher. Most of these errors are very small and seem due to overreliance on an automated spell-checker, which will often not find an error when it is a legitimate word, such as appears in the annotation for entry 583. More substantial is the single instance in which the same bibliographic entry appears twice, immediately adjacent in entries 593 and 594, with slight variations in typography and different annotations. In the citation of entry 776 it appears there is a temporary placeholder for the series name, instead of the name of the series in which the bibliography appears. In a work the size of White's it is understandable that a placeholder could remain at the manuscript stage, but it is regrettable that this found its way into print. One must strain a bit to find these problems, and they do not seriously detract from the work as a whole.

Researchers in Native American Studies and librarians responsible for building collections for research in the area will be very pleased with Phillip White's *Bibliography of Native American Bibliographies*. This master bibliography should be in every library collection serving degree programs or substantial coursework in Native American Studies, general library collections in research institutions, and any library regularly serving researchers in the field.

Kenneth Wade

University of California, Los Angeles