information literacy theory and includes contributions from the United Kingdom as well as North America, which has the effect of providing a refreshing perspective on familiar subjects.—*Char Booth, E-Learning Librarian, University of California, Berkeley*

A Picture Book Primer: Understanding and Using Picture Books. By Denise I. Matulka. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2008. 307p. paper $40 (ISBN 1-59158-441-4).

What is a picture book? Is picture book a format or a genre? In *A Picture Book Primer: Understanding and Using Picture Books*, author Denise Matulka answers these questions and many more.

After a brief historical overview, the author begins with the anatomical basics or physical aspects that make a book a picture book. The book continues by delving into the more ephemeral qualities that define a picture book, including a variety of artistic qualities and how they work together to support the whole. Metulka's knowledge of picture books allows her to analyze several well-known picture books to illustrate each of her points. Additionally, line drawing illustrations from the book *Butler and the Fly* (included as an appendix) by Megan Elizabeth Bergman are interspersed throughout the text to bring clarity to the descriptions of artistic terms and the discussion about "reading images" and visual literacy. This book includes many references, enabling readers to further pursue topics of particular interest.

Of special interest is the chapter "Development, Literacy and Picture Books." The author discusses child development and the place of picture books in the development of emergent and visual literacy. In the chapter "Format or Genre?" Matulka discusses the differences between these terms and sheds light on some murky territory. The chapter "Picture Book Issues" gives a succinct summation of issues (including censorship) throughout many decades in the development of picture books. This chapter provides comprehensive information and highlights points for thoughtful discussion. Matulka finishes the book with practical strategies for evaluating picture books and building collections.

Additional helpful features of this book are the extended historical timeline and the glossary included in the appendixes. A supporting resource to use along with the book is the author's website, www.picturingbooks.com. By clicking on the "Interactive" button, one can find interactive visuals to complement the chapters in the book. Especially helpful are the pages that cover the picture books mentioned, illustrating art media, style, design elements, and the "topography" of the picture book.

Matulka's straightforward approach and easy tone make this book accessible and appealing to anyone interested in picture books, including librarians, teachers, and aspiring picture book writers. This book would be an excellent supplement for children's literature classes.—*Jenny Foster Stenis, Coordinator, Children's Services, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma*

Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries. 7th edition. Ed. by Jack O'Gorman. Chicago: ALA, 2008. 329p. paper $80 (ISBN 0-8389-0943-4).

Many librarians became acquainted with *Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries* during their master's degree studies or early in their careers. Now in its seventh edition, this book retains its original purpose as a buying guide and collection development tool for reference sources. Substantial editing and updating reflect changes in reference publishing and the nature of reference itself. The sixteen chapter contributors represent a wide range of subject areas and different types of libraries.

This edition contains almost seventeen hundred annotated entries, a reduction from more than two thousand entries in the sixth edition. Each entry provides a concise description of the source, and many include evaluative comments. Entries do not appear to follow a set writing style or format. Reminiscent of newspaper and magazine restaurant ratings, entries for reference books include one to four dollar signs to indicate a title's price range.

The book is arranged in twenty topical chapters, each divided further by type of source and subtopic. An author-title index provides straightforward access to entries for known sources; the chapter arrangement and table of contents provide systematic access by subject. When consulting this source, one should bear in mind that there could be additional sources on a subject that were excluded but that might be worthy of consideration for a particular collection. Users may wish to consult this book in conjunction with other sources.

This guide is particularly useful for small collections and libraries, where money and time for collection development are often limited. It also can be valuable in teaching reference sources to LIS students, especially considering the number of graduates who go on to work in small- or medium-sized libraries. Specialists in some subjects may perceive errors and deficiencies in a few entries, but occasional imperfections are excusable in such a large undertaking. Overall, O'Gorman and his colleagues have done an admirable job of producing a practical source that lives up to the reputation of previous editions.

After almost forty years, *Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries* remains a standard tool for collection development. It is recommended especially for small- and medium-sized public and academic libraries, and for collections that support library and information science programs.—*Anthony Stamatoplos, Associate Librarian, University Library, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Indiana*

Transforming Library Service through Information Commons: Case Studies for the Digital Age. D. Russel Bailey and Barbara Dunter Tierney. Chicago: ALA, 2008. 155p. paper $55 (ISBN 978-0-8389-0958-4; 0-8389-0958-2).

The focus of *Transforming Library Service through Information Commons* is to explore, mainly through the examples of