In 1930, more difficult directions were given:

Since it is essential that each foreign-born person be credited to the country in which his birthplace is now located, special attention must be given to the six countries which lost a part of their territory in the readjustments following the World War. These six countries are as follows: Austria, which lost territory to Czechoslovakia, Italy, Yugoslavia, Poland, and Rumania; Hungary, which lost territory to Austria, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Yugoslavia; Bulgaria, which lost territory to Greece and Yugoslavia; Germany, which lost territory to Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark, France, Lithuania, and Poland; Russia, which lost territory to Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Turkey….

It goes on, but you will have to read the book to see the rest. I can really sympathize with the census taker who tries to understand and follow these instructions but can barely understand the residents who have very thick ethnic accents.

Simpson then turns to two chapters primarily aimed at librarians but also of value to other genealogists. The first is called the Reference Interview but could have been called Research Philosophies and Strategies. The other chapter is called Professional Toolkit. It is a combination of professional growth opportunities for genealogy librarians and annotated list of approximately two dozen titles that could form the core of a genealogical reference collection.

The single significant shortcoming of this book results from the author's decision not to include a discussion of DNA. His reasoning was that "As a librarian, I do not assist researchers with DNA projects because this kind of research occurs outside the library, but it is important for librarians to help researchers to learn the basics of DNA research." Therefore, the author included one book in his annotated bibliography but no further discussion of this important new genealogy tool. Excluding a basic discussion of DNA on this basis is dangerously close to suggesting that a basic text should exclude a detailed discussion of census data because it is collected outside the library.

All in all this is a well-written book by a very knowledgeable genealogy librarian. The pace of the book keeps the reader moving. The information is relevant and up-to-date—particularly the discussions of online resources. It, minus a discussion of DNA, is a very solid introduction to the basics of genealogy research and genealogy librarianship. In addition, it is an easy read. A couple of times my wife, who is neither a librarian nor a serious genealogist, picked up the book and read several pages before I was able to wrestle it back.—*Dave Dowell, Emeritus College, Cuesta College.*

J. Greg Matthews. *Literary Research and Irish Literature: Strategies and Sources.* Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2009. 213p. alk. paper, $40 (ISBN 9780810863668). LC2008-029230.
As its title makes clear, the fifth volume in Scarecrow's "Literary Research: Strategies and Sources" series provides an overview of resources and methods for researching Irish authors and their works. The author is a cataloging librarian at Washington State University Libraries with some expertise in the subject (he holds a master's degree in English literature from the

University of Idaho and regularly reviews Irish and Welsh literary works for *Library Journal* and other publications) and he is able to provide vivid, "real world" examples of research questions that could be answered using the sources and strategies he recommends. He writes clearly and offers detailed narratives that guide the reader step by step through particular types of searches.

Each chapter focuses on a different type of source useful for researchers of Irish literature: library catalogs; print and electronic bibliographies, indexes and annual reviews; scholarly journals; periodicals, newspapers, and reviews; microform and digital collections; manuscripts and archives; and Web resources. Each chapter begins with a brief overview of the resource—important definitions (in the chapter on scholarly journals, for example, he differentiates between articles, review essays, notes, and book reviews) and types of information the reader will find in a typical source in that category. The chapters are then divided into sections either by type of source or by research task. The chapter on "Scholarly Journals," for example, is subdivided by type of source—"Irish Literature Journals," "Author-specific Journals," and "General Literature Journals"—while the chapter on "Periodicals, Newspapers and Reviews" is subdivided by research task—"Identifying Periodicals and Newspapers" and "Finding Articles and Reviews." Within each section, the author provides descriptions of the sources, comparing sources to each other or comparing electronic and print versions of the same source in terms of scope, authority, usability, and the like.

The author's choice of sources is, for the most part, a logical mix of general and specialized works. His choices, however, occasionally seem idiosyncratic, such as in the section on "Irish Literature Author Bibliographies," in which he lists a total of six bibliographies, four of which concern George Bernard Shaw. (Seamus Heaney and Lady Gregory round out the list.)

With so many Irish authors from which to choose, a little more variety would have been appropriate. Matthews' descriptions of his sources are concise but detailed and offer many useful tips for their use; for example, the chapter on "Scholarly Journals" recommends checking the dates of the first and last citations in a list of MLA International Bibliography search results to determine the extent of a journal's coverage in that database (86).

The final chapter, "Researching a Thorny Problem," uses the task of "identifying authors who published in a specific periodical"—in this case, the Irish literary journal *The Bell* (Dublin, 1940–1945)—to illustrate the impasses and frustrations that an average researcher might encounter. Matthews' case study offers a good example of a skilled researcher's patience and resourcefulness in the face of a difficult question and makes a plug for the usefulness of a good reference librarian. (Reference librarians should appreciate that the author makes frequent mention of them, pausing at least once per chapter to indicate points in the research process where a librarian's expertise would be especially helpful.) The end matter includes a brief bibliography, an adequate index, and an appendix, "Resources in Related Disciplines," with annotated entries for print and electronic sources in Art, History, Music, Philosophy, Religion, and the Sciences, for researchers wanting to explore materials outside the standard Literature sources.

The book's one minor shortcoming is that its intended audience is somewhat unclear, alternating between beginning researchers, such as graduate students or undergraduates in upper-level literature courses, who need an explanation of the basics of literary research, and advanced researchers who, though well-versed in literary research, are perhaps new to the field of Irish literature. A case in point is the first chapter, "Basics of Online Searching," which provides a thorough introduction to electronic research—brainstorming keywords, understanding

the structure of MARC records, creating search strategies, using Boolean, proximity, and truncation operators, complete with Venn diagrams—that would be at home in a library science textbook. This is undeniably valuable information, but it is likely to be skipped over by researchers and librarians who have even a passing familiarity with online catalogs or databases.

Altogether, the book offers a useful guide for researchers of Irish literature at all levels, as well as for the librarians who assist them. Librarians may also find the volume helpful for developing a collection of print and electronic resources for Irish literary research.—*Timothy Hackman, University of Maryland.*

Information Technology in Librarianship: New Critical Approaches. Eds. Gloria J. Leckie and John E. Bushman. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2009. 297p. alk. paper, $50 (ISBN 9781591586296). LC2008-030424.

Too often, arguments on technology begin with an already assumed benefit or detriment from the adoption of new technologies. Without the rationale that would expose issues related to the argumentative context as well as faulty reasoning, the arguments cannot further the needed critical discussion. By providing the theoretical foundations for productive critical discussions and arguments on technology in connection to librarianship, this volume serves an essential complement to current arguments on technology. Indeed, the volume's stated purpose is to intensify and extend librarianship's analysis of technology.

Given the ever-evolving impact of technology on librarianship, this volume presents information vital for all working in librarianship and in related fields. As a second edition of *Critical Approaches to Information Technology in Librarianship: Foundations and Applications* (1993) edited by Bushman, one of the core strengths of this volume is the historical context it provides for current issues in relation

to technology. The volume succeeds in presenting the needed context without delving into unnecessary details that could otherwise have detracted from the volume's purpose.

Texts on technology run the danger of being overly focused without sufficient context, and thus appealing only to those already familiar with a certain level of technology. Because this volume focuses on the issues and implications connected to technology, it will be accessible and useful for readers who are already familiar with critical discussions of technology as well as readers who are new to the conversation.

Bushman and Leckie's introduction opens the volume by giving a sense of the landscape for the critical discussions underway with the pertinent histories and contexts. They then explain six types of critical approaches present in each of the chapters in varying degrees, classifying these as critiques of and related to: capital control of technology; rationalization, control, and monitoring; the Information Revolution as ideology; feminist critiques of technology; technological utopianism; technology, politics, and the public sphere. The introduction offers a brief overview for each of these approaches, covering key points in the arguments along with their practical implications and significance. After laying the groundwork for the relevant conversations related to these core lines of inquiry, the volume itself is then divided into two sections: "Foundations" and "Applications."

The "Foundations" section includes five chapters that span a range of topics and themes, including: instrumentalization theory, which explains two ways to study technology, at the level of practical application and at the level of designed intent; surveillance and privacy issues; what it means for librarians to be information age workers in terms of labor and cycles of control and resistance for Internet freedom; technology, literacy, and the educational system with an analysis of the real issues at stake when technology