

# AALL Publications Series #73

## PRACTICING REFERENCE

Thoughts for Librarians and Legal Researchers

BY MARY WHISNER



Author and Reference Librarian Mary Whisner offers a collection of her most popular essays originally published in her “Practicing Reference” column in *Law Library Journal* between 1999 and 2005.

*“Reference work is challenging, exciting, interesting, fast-paced, and ever-changing—except when it’s exasperating, routine, and tedious. It calls on a wide variety of skills, knowledge, and abilities. Good reference librarians must be creative researchers, familiar, and facile with print and online resources.”*

—Mary Whisner, *Introduction*

Packed with useful advice for legal researchers, librarians and students, Whisner’s essays have been updated where applicable, and the work is divided into three categories: *Part One: The Reference Interaction; Part Two: Developing, Growing, and Coping as a Reference Librarian;* and *Part Three: Research Techniques and Sources.*

In 27 topical chapters, the author offers sage advice and directs readers to “cool Web sites.” Whisner also stands by the “old-fashioned but still pertinent idea of books that people might sit down and read.” This work will be a valuable asset to all researchers on all skill levels—from the beginner to the most advanced.

*“Mary Whisner has contributed an article about some aspect of reference work to almost every issue of Law Library Journal since 1999....Each piece is a delightful gem, perfect for reading in a single sitting. Picking just one is an impossible task (“so many great articles!!”) so read them all.”*

- James Houdek, *The Essential Law Library Journal*, 166-167

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