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132. Burden, Paul R. **A Subject Guide to Quality Web Sites**. Lanham, Md., Scarecrow, 2010. 767p. index. $100.00. ISBN 13: 978-0-8108-7694-1.

In this day and age it is hard to get excited about an Internet subject directory published in print. It is an anachronism in today's Web environment. Even Web-based subject directories have been pushed aside in place of search. A specific site, no matter how good, is ephemeral. Also, the idea of people browsing the metaphorical shelves of cyberspace looking for interesting reads is unrealistic. Search reigns supreme. These challenges aside, Burden strives to provide a quality collection of 4,200 Websites, organized into 16 categories, with further subdivisions in each chapter. Unfortunately, the categories are overly broad and somewhat random. Likewise, the subdivisions, which seem based on the specificity of particular sites rather than a coherent organizational structure. Within subdivisions, sites are listed in alphabetic order, but are hard to scan because titles are not in bold. Strangely, some sites are annotated (up to 150 words or so), while others only include a site name and URL. There are also some editorial inconsistencies. Under the category Libraries—University, some states are represented, but not others. It is hard to imagine a state like Michigan, with 4 large research universities, does not have any notable digital collections. Some states include links to specific university library collections of interest, while others (e.g., North Carolina) only provide the university libraries' home pages. Suffice to say, save your money. The subject matter and editorial issues of this book preclude a positive recommendation.—**Kevin McDonough**