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Digital collections worldwide: An annotated directory.
New York, NY: Neal-Schuman

Kevin McDonough

Northern Michigan University, kmcdonou@nmu.edu

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1327. Aloi, Michael J., Marjorie Fusco, and Susan E. Ketcham. **Digital Collections Worldwide: An Annotated Directory**. New York, Neal-Schuman, 2011. 345p. index. \$250.00pa. ISBN 13: 978-1-55570-701-9.

In *Digital Collections Worldwide*, the authors attempt to provide access to “authoritative, useful, and permanent worldwide digital collections” while reducing the frustration involved in locating quality image collections through Web pathfinders or search engines. Over 1,400 sites are included in this book, originating from educational institutions, government bodies, museums, libraries, archives, or scholars’ personal Websites. Corporate sites were also listed, but only those that were not created to promote products. Although the primary audience is researchers, the authors’ claim anyone will find this collection useful. One of the limitations of this source is the organization. The authors chose to group resources geographically by continent, and then subdivided into countries or states. Maybe researchers can appreciate this structure, but for most people subject access is preferable. There is an index with subject access, but an overall subject arrangement would allow for greater discovery. Another potential limitation is the ephemeral nature of Website addresses. In the preface and back cover, the authors mention a companion Website that will eliminate the problem of broken links and make newer collections accessible. Without the companion site, entering some of the Web addresses will be difficult as they can be fairly long with back slashes, question marks, equal signs, and underscores. That said, the entries themselves are well described, including the scope of the images present, the identity and intent of the creator, and the best means for exploring a site. The authors’ selections seem good, along with the quality of the images in the collections. Whether a book like this will be sought out by users needing digital images is the key question to consider before purchasing.—**Kevin McDonough**