

BLIS semester II  
(paper – 5)  
Reference Sources & Services  
Topic – Yearbooks  
e-content

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## **Yearbooks**

Yearbooks are also known as annuals. As it is evident from the literal meaning of the term, a yearbook is a serial publication issued every year. It is called a compendium because it provides comprehensive account in a concise form of otherwise a vast subject. It contains current information on one or more subjects - in brief, descriptive or statistical form. Yearbooks are published as independent publications or as supplements to an encyclopaedia. Therefore, yearbooks can be divided into two major groups:

- ❖ Yearbooks
- ❖ Supplement to Encyclopaedias.

## **a) Yearbooks**

The basic purpose of yearbooks is to record annual developments in a geographical area, in a subject discipline or in an organisation. Depending upon the geographical area covered year-books can be:

- International or
- National/Regional

Again both International as well as National/Regional yearbooks can be grouped according to their scope: (i) General, (ii) Subject, (iii) Organisational.

### **International Yearbooks - General**

International yearbooks of a general nature are very handy, authentic and reliable manuals of descriptive and statistical information about each country of the world. They also include information about international and regional organisations such as, the United Nations and the Commonwealth or SAARC, etc. They cover descriptive and statistical survey of each country - its area, population, constitution, government, political parties, trade and industry, communications, finance, defence, social welfare, transport, tourism, educational and cultural institutions, etc. They also give a brief list of references on the country. Some contain even biographies of internationally known personalities.

Europa Year Book: A World Survey. London: Europa Publications, 1959. Annual. 2 vols.

It started publication in 1926, In its present two volume form brought out since 1959, it provides wealth of information about all countries of the World.

- International Year Book and Statesman's Who's Who. East Grinstead, W. Sussex: Reed Information Service, 1953. Annual.
- Statesman 's Yearbook: Statistical and Historical Annual of the States of the World . London: Macmillan, 1864 . Annual.

### **International Yearbooks - Subject**

Unlike general yearbook of international scope, a subject yearbook restricts itself to cover world wide development in a particular subject field. It describes activities of organisations in the field, data on the subject and major trend in research in the subject.

World Armaments and Disarmament, SIPRI Yearbook. Stockholm: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 1968-69. Annual

It gives reports on world military expenditure, arms production, strategic nuclear weapons, satellites and on the arms trade, Each yearbook has special articles too.

- Green Globe Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment and Development., Oxford : Oxford University Press for the Fridtjof Naziism Institute, Norway, 1992. Annual.

It reveals as openly and objectively as possible the controversies, conflicts and constraints encountered in promoting, development and protecting environment.

### **International Yearbooks - Organisational**

Yearbook of the United Nations. New York: United Nations, Dept. of Public Information, 1946/47. Annual.

It summarises the activities, proceedings and decision of the United Nations and its agencies and associated international organisations.

### **National/Regional Yearbooks - General**

National Yearbooks provide descriptive and statistical account of a specific region or country. They include area, population, government and constitution, administration, economy, social welfare, commerce, communications and other major services. They include annual events and activities of the nation. Usually, national yearbooks are government publications.

- India: A Reference Annual. Delhi: Publications Division, 1953. Annual. From 1998, the title is India 1998 (year is added)
- Britain: An Official Handbook. London: Statistical Office, 1948. Annual.

### **National/Regional Yearbooks - Subject**

Yearbook on India's Foreign Policy/ed. by Satish Kumar. New Delhi Sage, 1982-83. Annual.

Family Welfare Programme in India Yearbook. New Delhi : Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

### **National/Regional Yearbooks – Organisational**

Library Association Yearbook. London : Library Association. Annual  
It contains records of various committees and sub-committees of the Association, its office bearers, list of members etc.

American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. Yearbook. Valley Forge Pa. 1973. Annual.

It includes records of the biennial meeting of the Association and reports of activities of the national boards.

The ALA Yearbook; A Review of Library Events. Chicago : ALA, 1986. Annual.

### **b) Supplements to Encyclopaedias**

Since last six decades, the leading publishers of important encyclopaedia sets have begun issuing yearbooks. They are known as "Supplements to Encyclopaedias". The first such year-book was published for "Encyclopaedia Americana" in 1923. The basic objectives of bringing out these annual supplements are :

- to update the basic set;
- to summarise the year's major events; and
- to promote their sale by giving psychological realisation to the customer that the set is always kept updated by incorporating latest developments.

Their prime function is to supplement the main set of encyclopaedia. But in reality, it is observed that these yearbooks are related to their present encyclopaedias only by name. They are usually issued to record the major events of the preceding year rather than updating the original encyclopaedia set, as claimed by the publishers. They vary in their coverage, arrangement, quality and quantity of illustrations, presentation, inclusion of special features, index and so on. "The Americana Annual" includes articles under the broad headings whereas "Britannica Book of the Year" contains a large number of relatively brief articles on the year's events and special sections on biography and chronology. It possesses a detailed index with `see' and `see also' references and an extensive guide. They are useful to make an easy search.

Usually, the information covered in these supplements is not always incorporated in the later revised editions of the

encyclopaedia sets. So, the complete file of these supplements provides the librarians and users a fairly comprehensive view of the events over a period or time. Thus, it is essential for every large library to acquire these supplements regularly.

Some of the examples of important supplements to encyclopaedias are discussed here by grouping them into three categories.

- Adult Encyclopaedia Supplements
- Juvenile Encyclopaedia Supplements
- Subject Encyclopaedia Supplements

#### **a) Adult Encyclopaedia Supplements**

They serve as annual supplements to encyclopaedia meant for adults.

Americana Annual, An Encyclopaedia of Events. New York: Americana Corporation, 1923. Annual Britannica Book of the Year. Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1938. Annual.

It was published as "Chamber's Encyclopaedia World Survey" by Newnes, London, 1952-65. It ceased publication and was superseded by "Chamber's Encyclopaedia Year Book" from 1968.

### **Juvenile Encyclopaedia Supplements**

These are annual supplements to young people's encyclopaedias meant for children, students, and youths.

Compton Yearbook: An Illustrated Factual Record of Outstanding Events. Chicago Compton, Annual.

It is a supplement to the "Compton's Pictured Encyclopaedia" having a well illustrated, factual record of important events.

World Book Yearbook, An Annual Supplement. Chicago: Field Enterprise Education Corp. Annual.

It serves as supplement to "World Book Encyclopaedia" and records major events of the year.

### **Subject Encyclopaedia Supplement**

The supplements to subject encyclopaedias are very useful for the subject specialists. They cover important development of a particular year.

McGraw Hill Yearbook of Science and Technology. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1962. Annual. It is a supplement to McGraw-Hill Encyclopaedia of Science and Technology and keeps it up-to-date between the publications of two editions. It is an important ready

reference tool for the scientists, engineers, students and science teachers.

The American Library Association Yearbook. Chicago: American Library Association, 1976. Annual.

It is a supplement to one volume ALA World Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Services. There is a difference in scope between the encyclopaedia and the yearbook. The encyclopaedia covers the world whereas the yearbook deals with America. But it serves as a very useful ready reference tool for the librarians and information scientists, students and teachers of library science.