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[Review of] The Baseball Research Handbook

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724. Tomlinson, Gerald. **The Baseball Research Handbook**. Kansas City, Mo., Society for American Baseball Research, 1987. 120p. index. \$6.00pa. ISBN 0-910137-29-3.

This specialized primer introduces the user to the rudiments of research from topic selection through source acquisition to publication solicitation. Tomlinson lists twenty-four "contributors" (including David Q. Voigt and Philip Lowry), but their only appearance in the text is in passing references. A valuable checklist of eighty sources (most of which are annotated) covers many useful general sources (but omits *Biography and Genealogy Master Index*, *Magazine Index*, and *Comprehensive Dissertation Index*) and essential baseball reference tools (except *Sport Bibliography* [Human Kinetics]), along with examples of biographies, newspapers, magazines, and published books. Some sections (e.g., "The Self-Publishing Option") provide little guidance except for references to more detailed sources. More detail concerning the location and use of papers (a critical source for much baseball research) would strengthen the work, as would more discussion concerning oral history basics (e.g., requesting interviews). The photography section is strong but does not explain copyright bylines from photograph services and newspapers. Other sections discuss the use of libraries (librarians are touted often as invaluable resources) and Society for American Baseball Research resources, and methods for assuring accuracy.

This inexpensive, cheaply bound volume will be useful to the first-time baseball researcher, but users should be cautioned concerning its limitations. [R: Choice, June 88, pp. 1540-41]

Robert Aken