

ALMANACS AND YEARBOOKS

Almanacs may be most usefully described as "grab bags" of assorted information. This information includes weights and measures, government addresses, proper forms of names for visiting dignitaries, radio and TV listings, obscure facts, or perpetual calendars—all can be found in a general almanac.

Specialized almanacs focus on national information for their country of publication. For example, the front cover of the *Canadian Almanac and Directory* notes that it includes information on abbreviations, honours and titles, associations and societies, broadcasting and communications, religious organizations, commerce and finance, electoral districts, geography, foreign and international contacts, health and hospitals, general and historical facts, the postal service, and tourism and transportation, as well as a cultural directory, an education directory, a government directory including reference contacts, and a legal directory. There are also business, sports, and weather almanacs, which cover a particular subject field in the same comprehensive way.

Yearbooks provide an overview of the past year's events. Specialized yearbooks deal specifically with a defined type of information (e.g., statistics) or with the information of a particular subject field (e.g., articles in *The Modern Plastics Yearbook* detail some of the technological advances made over the year in this field, combining advertisements, specifications, and reference tables with a directory-type buyer's guide).

- ◆ *Canada Year Book*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- ◆ *Canadian Almanac and Directory*. Toronto: Canadian Almanac & Directory Publishing Co. Ltd.
- ◆ *Canadian Annual Review of Politics and Public Affairs*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.