

Studying the Correspondence between Children and Young Adult's Persian Encyclopedias Published during 2006-2011 and Reference Books Evaluation Criteria

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Abstract

Purpose: In this article, we aimed at the evaluation of children and young adult's Persian encyclopedias, published during 2006-2011, with reference works evaluation criteria.

Methodology: Evaluative research method was used for directing research. The population of study was 150 titles of published encyclopedias. The tool for evaluation was a researcher-made checklist that gathered through library research.

Findings: findings showed that 45 titles of 150 ones (30 percent) were general encyclopedias and 105 titles were special encyclopedias. In the year 2009, highest number of encyclopedias was published (34 titles). Besides, 71.5 percent of them were special works and 28.5 percent were general works. The research checklist had 12 components that compared against encyclopedias. In general, in most of the translated works, the aim of work had not been mentioned and about 60 percent of them were without indexes. Also, in 63.6 percent cases of written-translated works and 97 percent of translated works, we didn't see any guide for use. Likewise, results showed that the quality of written encyclopedias were generally better than written-translated ones.

Originality/Value: With regard to some lacks in the field of evaluation criteria for children and young adult Persian encyclopedias, this study can help reference librarians to evaluate these types of reference works effectively and can be a start point for gradual complementation of related criteria.

Keywords: Reference resources, Children and young adults, Encyclopedia, Evaluation criteria.

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