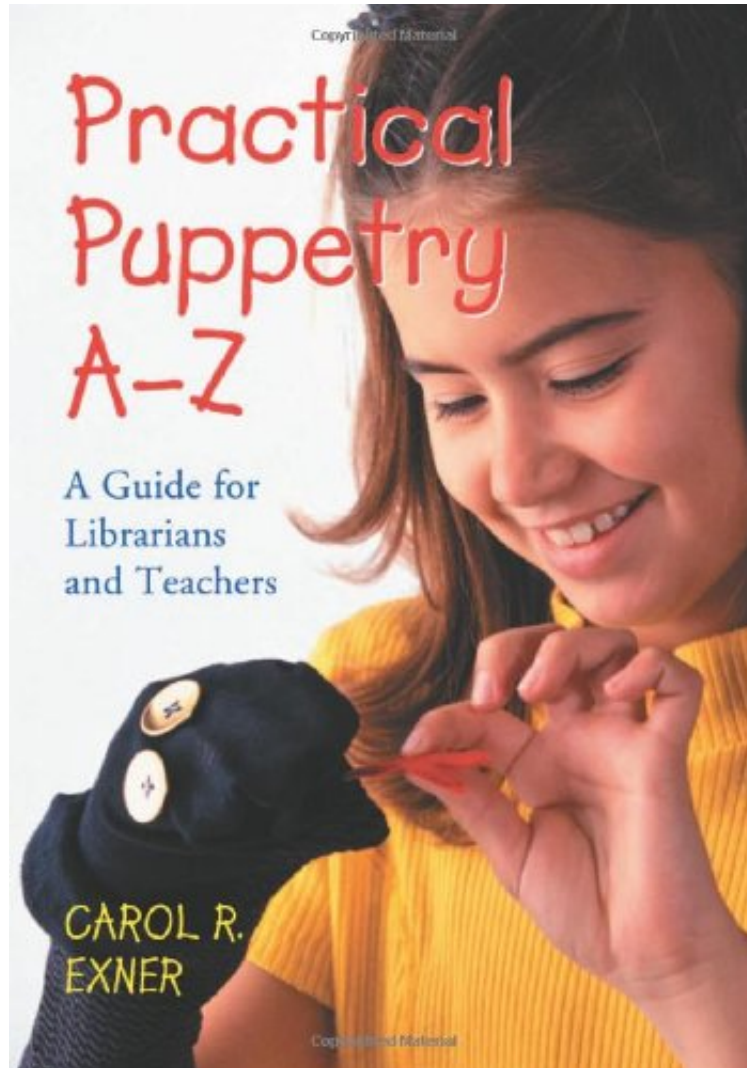


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Practical Puppetry A-Z: A Guide for Librarians and Teachers

Carol R. Exner

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Carol R. Exner : Practical Puppetry A-Z: A Guide for Librarians and Teachers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Practical Puppetry A-Z: A Guide for Librarians and Teachers:

Puppetry is an exciting, flexible, malleable art form that can engage the creative forces of children or adults. Puppets can not only tell a story, they can be used to enhance the curriculum, present an idea or a concept in a compelling way, or teach any number of necessary skills. Children and adults presenting a puppet play are given a sense of their own

inventive power. This reference work offers an A to Z view of working with puppets. It covers everything from the basic strategies of advertising and marketing puppet productions, to assembling the puppets out of household materials such as paper bags, cereal boxes, or gloves, to the more elaborate sculpting of armatures. Stages, curtains and props are also discussed along with the history of puppetry. Numerous illustrations give a visual of many of the finished products. This work concludes with an annotated bibliography and index.

From School Library Journal Exner writes from experience about working with groups of children of different ages and abilities on puppetry classes and projects, and many of her ideas are good ones. Unfortunately, the book does not have sufficient illustrative material. Directions for building an oatmeal-box mouth puppet, for example, need step-by-step drawings. The author includes well-written articles about the styles and uses of puppetry in various cultures but how can readers be expected to understand the nature of the Turkish trickster Karagoz or Indonesian Wayang puppetry without illustrations of their puppet figures and stages? This title would be fine as a supplementary book for a large collection on the subject, but beginners would be better served by digging up copies of the excellent books by the late Nancy Renfro and her cowriters that were published in the 1970s and '80s (now mostly out of print, but still available in many library systems). Walter Minkel, New York Public Library Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In a lively, personal tone, author Exner presents the art of puppetry as a creative and engaging way to snag the interests of both adults and children. Presented in alphabetical order, approximately 135 entries cover everything from starting a puppetry business to puppetry history to creating numerous kinds of puppets: glove, sponge, life-size, even marionettes. Construction is covered in entries dealing with types of puppets and in those dealing with puppet features. Black-and-white photographs and diagrams extend the text and clarify descriptions and instructions. Each entry ends with bibliographic citations to more detailed works on the topic in question. An annotated bibliography and a sound index end the volume. Broader in scope than either Jenean Romberg's *Let's Discover Puppets* (Center for Applied Research in Education, 1976) or Jeffrey L. Peyton's *Puppetools: Introductory Guide and Your Specialized Applications Manual* (Prescott Durell, 1986), this is an excellent resource for school or public libraries with a focus on puppets as literary and promotional tools. Ann Welton Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "lively...an excellent resource"--Booklist; "well-written articles"--School Library Journal; "useful"--ARBA; "recommended"--The Australian Library Journal.