BIBLIOGRAPHICAL GUIDE TO SECONDARY SOURCES ON THE HISTORY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE, 1912-1995

Ian Van der Waag

Abstract

Ideally, an historian, if he is to acquit his task, must know the total range and types of sources available to him, in and around the topic of his enquiry. Knowing what his colleagues have published is essential. However, it is hardly possible to compile, and keep up to date, a full bibliography. Selection is both subjective and arbitrary; and a selection of books, articles and manuscripts is no exception.

Nonetheless, a serious researcher will attempt to make a survey of all the material, archival and secondary, which may conceivably be relevant to his topic. Geoffrey Elton has described this as "a broadfronted attack upon all the relevant material". This is of primary importance to historical scholarship. First and foremost, it is pointless to duplicate work once all the major issues and questions involved, have already been thrashed out by other historians. It has been said that history is an endless debate. This is true. However, debating historians must have something to say. An historian tackling a hackneyed topic, must either have discovered new evidence or must advance a novel interpretation of existing evidence.

Keywords

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL GUIDE TO SECONDARY SOURCES; THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE; historical scholarship; major issues and questions; a full bibliography; subjective and arbitrary

Full Text:

PDF

DOI: 10.5787/25-2-260

Refbacks

There are currently no refbacks.

Copyright (c) 2018 Ian Van der Waag

ISSN 2224-0020 (online); ISSN 1022-8136 (print)

Creative Commons License - CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

Powered by OJS and hosted by Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service since 2011.

Disclaimer:

This journal is hosted by the SU LIS on request of the journal owner/editor. The SU LIS takes no responsibility for the content published within this journal, and disclaim all liability arising out of the use of or inability to use the information contained herein. We assume no responsibility, and shall not be liable for any breaches of agreement with other publishers/hosts.

SUJournals Help