Handbook of Composite Reinforcements

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This book is an excellent collection of 52 discussions, each dealing with an aspect of composite materials. Each topical discussion was written by a knowledgeable expert in the given area. Primarily the book deals with fabrication, applications, and constituent properties and less so with mechanical behavior or failure mechanisms. The specific topics range from ARALL® laminates to wood composition boards to metal matrix composites to polymeric matrix composites. Each article is well written and very well illustrated. One obvious flaw in the book is a lack of logical organization. The individual contributions are presented in alphabetical order instead of by subject matter (such as reinforcements, matrices, manufacture, applications, etc.) or in chronological order. Of course the reviewer recognizes that there is no perfect way of organizing 52 articles by different authors. The subject matter is rather hit-or-miss in many areas. This is again a product of multiple-authored contributions. The volume even lacks a Table of Contents for each article with the associated page number for quick reference.

This handbook is not suitable as a text on composite materials, however, it is an excellent reference book that any serious composite user would value as an addition to their library.