

three volumes. *Encyclopedia of the Modern World: 1900 to the Present* is recommended for public, high school, and undergraduate library reference collections.—*Michael A. Rose, Public Services Librarian, Rockingham Community College, Wentworth, North Carolina*

The Facts On File Encyclopedia of Health and Medicine: A Comprehensive and Concise Guide to the Human Body and Modern Medical Practices. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 4 vols. alkaline \$265 (ISBN 0-8160-6063-0).

Each of the first three volumes in this four-volume set focuses on major systems of the human body. The first volume covers the sensory and structural systems; the second volume covers the circulatory, pulmonary, and immune systems; and the third volume covers the rest of generally accepted body systems as well as presents information about psychiatric disorders and psychological conditions. The fourth volume furnishes information about health topics that can affect overall health and well-being, such as preventive, alternative, and complementary medicine, and genetic and molecular medical techniques. Additional chapters are devoted to lifestyle factors, including drug use, nutrition and diet, exercise and fitness, smoking, obesity, and substance abuse. The capstone chapter presents emergency and first aid procedures. The fourth volume also furnishes many specialized appendixes and a cumulative index to volumes one through four.

Written under the direction of a thirteen-member medical advisory review panel representing many fields of medicine, this reference claims to be comprehensive and offer an integrated approach to understanding medical information. However, coverage of each topic is brief, and the presentation of concepts seems fragmented and disjointed rather than interconnected. For instance, each chapter that addresses either a major body system or health topic begins with an overview, which is usually only a few pages long. Entries for topics associated with the chapter theme follow, and many of these entries are only one or two paragraphs in length. Some article entries are further subdivided by relevant subheadings, such as those for health conditions and diseases, surgery operations, medication classifications, and diagnostic procedures. Despite the additional sections created by these further subdivisions, the overall entries are only slightly longer because each additional subsection is only one or two paragraphs in length.

Cross references are supplied for each entry, but usually just a few per entry. Unlike the *Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine* (Thomson Gale, 2006), this reference does not introduce and define key terms related to the entry topic or offer other features to aid the reader with comprehension. There are few diagrams, photos, and informational sidebars in this set of books. Furthermore, unlike the *Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine*, this encyclopedia's individual entries do not furnish resources for further reading, bibliographies, or contact information for relevant organizations. This encyclopedia simply lumps this information in two separate appendix sections titled "Selected Bibliography and Further Reading" and "Resources,"

making it challenging and time-consuming for individuals to continue researching their topics of interest. Because bibliographies lend support to the credibility and authoritativeness of the information presented, the lack of individual article bibliographies indicates that this encyclopedia may not be of the highest quality.

Although this reference has a few good entries, such as the entry about cultural and ethnic healthcare perspectives, the treatment of medical topics seems very light in nature, and the relationships between medical topics are difficult to infer. Users must continually rely on volume four's cumulative index to locate information on topics, especially for unfamiliar topics and those for which body system affiliations are unknown. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that instead of purchasing this set, public, school, and university libraries should consider purchasing some of the higher-priced, quality titles published by Thomson Gale, such as *Gale Encyclopedia of Alternative Medicine*, 2d ed., 4 vols., 2005; *Gale Encyclopedia of Cancer*, 2d ed., 2 vols., 2006; *Gale Encyclopedia of Children's Health: Infancy through Adolescence*, 4 vols., 2006; *Gale Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders*, 2d ed., 2 vols., 2005; or the aforementioned *Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine*. Alternatively, libraries may benefit from using free, high-quality Internet resources such as *MedlinePlus* (www.medlineplus.com) from the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health.—*Caroline Geck, Librarian, Kean University, Union, New Jersey*

Great Lives from History: Notorious Lives. Ed. by Carl L. Bankston III. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2007. 3 vols. alkaline \$252 (ISBN 978-1-58765-320-9).

Salem Press's *Great Lives from History: Notorious Lives* augments their *Great Lives* titles by adding more than six hundred new names. The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines notorious as "of a criminal, sinner, etc.: noted or well known in that capacity; infamous" (<http://dictionary.oed.com>, accessed April 13, 2007), and most of the names covered fit this definition. The coverage is very broad and includes figures from the Bible as well as contemporary names. The entire world is considered, although American ne'er-do-wells receive a majority of the attention. Not included are young people and the living who "might be considered victims of circumstance as well as of poor judgment," according to the publisher's Web site. This explains why Joey Buttafuoco is included but not Amy Fisher.

Entries are of moderate length, between 700 and 1,200 words, and make for interesting reading. All entries include a list of quick facts, such as name, aliases, dates and places of activity, major offenses, and sentencing information. A pronunciation guide is given for the main entry of the name, and some, but not all, of the entries are illustrated. The signed entries are slightly more in-depth than those found in other encyclopedias of crime, but that varies with the fame of the personage. Each entry also includes an impact statement that explains why this particular person was included. Annotated