

SOURCES

known whos, whats, and wheres in a reasonably priced, ready-reference package.—Cheryl Rae Nyberg, *Reference Librarian, Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington School of Law, Seattle*

Encyclopedia of American Urban History. Ed. by David Goldfield. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2007. 2 vols. acid free \$300 (ISBN 0-7619-2884-7).

The purpose of this two-volume encyclopedia is “to expose the leading scholarship by both prominent and up-and-coming academics and practitioners as not only a state-of-the-art summary of American urban history but as a valuable reference work to guide future researchers” (xxxv). Edited by Goldfield, Robert Lee Bailey Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, this reference work provides an inclusive and accessible digest of United States urban history.

The encyclopedia opens with an alphabetical listing of entries, reader’s guide, list of contributors, and introduction that describes the editor’s approach in constructing the work. The main text follows and includes more than five hundred clearly written, informative entries arranged alphabetically. Articles range in length from a few paragraphs to several pages. Essays are composed primarily by historians; however, there is representation from other academic disciplines, such as geography, economics, and urban planning. In addition, practitioners from government, not-for-profit organizations, and corporations also contribute to this volume and provide a valuable perspective. Articles are signed and include a helpful list of further readings and cross references.

The encyclopedia is extensive in scope. It focuses on the past 150 years of American urban history, “when the American city came into its own” (xxxvi). Moreover, as stated in the “Reader’s Guide,” the work covers eleven diverse subject areas, including “Biographies,” “Education and Schools,” “Finance and Commerce,” “Housing,” “Theories,” and “Transportation.” In addition, the term “urban” is broadly defined. For example, in addition to coverage of such major cities as New York and Los Angeles, the work examines other geographical entities (“Edge Cities,” “Penurbia”), and urban-related concepts (“Baseball and Ballparks,” “Slums”). Finally, the work effectively appraises the dimensions of race, class, and gender as they relate to urban history (“Racial Zoning,” “Working Class in Cities and Suburbs,” “Women’s World Fairs”).

Another reference work that studies urban history is *Encyclopedia of Urban America: The Cities and Suburbs* (ABC-Clio, 1998), edited by Neil Shumsky. Shumsky’s edition contains more than five hundred entries, many of which cover topics similar to Goldfield’s work, yet there is notable variation. For example, both encyclopedias include entries on such major cities as New York, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., but differ in their coverage of other urban centers. Goldfield’s work includes articles on Atlanta, Austin, and Detroit, which Shumsky excludes; however, Shumsky includes items on Nashville and Jacksonville, which Goldfield does not. More-

over, although both reference books contain pieces on the Housing Acts of 1934 and 1937, the Goldfield work also contains articles on the Housing Acts of 1949 and 1954. Both works effectively discuss the diversity of urban centers, but Goldfield’s work comprises a number of entries not covered in the Shumsky work, including articles on Native Americans, Islam, gays, and lesbians. Finally, Shumsky’s work contains a nine-page bibliography and black-and-white illustrations; the Goldfield text does not have these supplemental features.

Encyclopedia of American Urban History provides a solid overview of urban history and will be a valuable research tool for students and scholars. It is recommended for academic and large public libraries but is optional for libraries that own *Encyclopedia of Urban America: The Cities and Suburbs*.—Michelle Hendley, *Reference Librarian, State University of New York, College at Oneonta*.

The Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. By Carol A. Turkington and Ruth Anan. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 324p. acid free \$75 (ISBN 0-8160-6002-9).

While there are many books about autism and associated disorders, there are few reference works dedicated just to this group of developmental disabilities. Most of the available books are about coping with a family member diagnosed with one of these disorders. Many reference works about developmental, educational, or psychological disorders contain information about autism, but reference works focused upon autism seem to be rare.

Turkington and Anan’s *Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders* increases the number of currently available autism encyclopedias to two. The alphabetically arranged entries are well-written and well-researched. The authors have tried to make the information as accessible as possible to the layperson. The entries are supported by a glossary and a long list of suggested reading divided into subject groups. The six appendixes provide lists of national organizations associated with autism, Web sites, state autism organizations, autism resources by state, ongoing autism studies, and ongoing clinical trials. The entries themselves make up only 165 of the 324 pages of this work.

Neisworth and Wolfe’s *Autism Encyclopedia* (Brooks Pub, 2005) is similar in scope and layout to *The Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders*. The contributors liberally refer to the professional literature in the entries, creating one long reference list located at the end of the entries. The entries in the Neisworth and Wolfe volume use more professional language and don’t provide quite as much explanation for the layperson as Turkington and Anan’s work. There are only two appendixes, autism organizations and screening tools and curricula.

Given the increasing attention that autism is receiving, and the increasing rate of autism diagnoses, larger public libraries should purchase this title, especially if they don’t have the Neisworth and Wolfe work. College libraries should purchase this if they support programs in special education or developmental