

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

psychology.—Robin N. Sinn, *Librarian for Science and Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland*

Encyclopedia of Evolution. By Stanley A. Rice. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 469p. acid free \$75 (ISBN 0-8160-5515-7).

Publishers must agonize over how they can handle the development and marketing of a reference work dealing with a topic such as evolution. In the United States it is clearly a hot-button issue, with half of the American people claiming they don't "believe in" evolution, as if evolution were not a set of facts and theories that have been carefully worked through by multitudes of scientists for more than a century. In our culture, scientific appreciation is generally so low that acceptance of evolution as a process is seen as outright rejection of the predominant Christian dogma. It is within this conservative religious and political environment that Facts On File has created the *Encyclopedia of Evolution*. The choice of author Rice, an academic evolutionary ecologist, outspoken opponent of intelligent design, and practicing Christian, was inspired.

Rice manages to make this encyclopedia both scientifically accurate and culturally sensitive. It consists of 215 main entries arranged alphabetically covering the main concepts and issues relating to the evolution of life on earth. Its scope keeps the entries within the domain of science; Rice acknowledges that other types of evolution (art, culture, music, and so forth) are not dealt with in this work. Biographies of fifty important scientists who have contributed to the understanding of evolutionary processes are included. Black-and-white illustrations, maps, and charts are very well-done, appropriate, and plentiful without seeming like filler. Entries tend to be one to three pages in length (sometimes longer), and are written in very clear, accessible language. Each entry is followed by a list of further reading. These lists of suggested references are uniformly excellent, making these sections a considerable strength of this work. Rice includes five feature essays in the encyclopedia, elucidating topics important to the general reader: "How Much Do Genes Control Human Behavior?," "What Are the Ghosts of Evolution?," "Can an Evolutionary Scientist Be Religious?," "Why Do Humans Die?," and "Are Humans Alone in the Universe?" These topics are all accurately discussed, yet Rice does not shy away from viewing the topics through the Christian lens. In fact, that lens is gently and subtly employed in his treatment of many of the encyclopedic entries and thus clearly defines the primary, general market for this work.

The *Encyclopedia* joins three other works of seemingly similar scope. Mark Pagel's *Encyclopedia of Evolution* (Oxford, 2002) is an academically rigorous, two-volume work of evolutionary biology that covers both genetics and population biology in significant detail. Franz Wuketits and Francisco Ayala published the two-volume *Handbook of Evolution* (Wiley-VCH, 2005), which treats all kinds evolution through challenging review articles synthesizing the literature. *Life on Earth: An Encyclopedia of Biodiversity, Ecology, and Evolution* (ABC Clío, 2002), edited by Niles Eldredge, has entries

contributed by numerous experts in the field. It is broader in scope, focusing less on just evolution, and is not as user-friendly as Rice in book-in-hand terms.

Rice's *Encyclopedia of Evolution*, because of its scientifically accurate and culturally sensitive treatment of this controversial topic, is an essential acquisition for all high school, community college, and public libraries. It is useful in the general reference collection of academic libraries, but perhaps less useful in specialized science libraries serving upper-level or graduate students in the sciences.—Deborah Carter Peoples, *Science Librarian, Hobson Science Library, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware*

Encyclopedia of Italian Literary Studies. Ed. by Gaetana Marrone. New York: Routledge, 2007. 2 vols. \$495 (ISBN 1-57958-390-3).

This two-volume reference source ambitiously encompasses the canon of Italian literature while covering a wide range of literary trends and cultural developments. A collaborative work of international scholarly representation, the 591 bio-bibliographical, critical essays address themselves to an English-speaking audience. The signed articles are substantive in describing the rich history and evolution of Italian literary expression and culture. Contributors' expert and diverse perspectives aptly weave historical and cultural backdrops in the treatments, which are so well-woven as to make good and informative reading.

The core of the set constitutes major Italian authors from the thirteenth century to the present and an informed selection of their works. In addition to blending a balance of women's voices, the canon is generously extended to include noteworthy historians, critics, actors and actresses, filmmakers, playwrights, dramatists, mystics, and some re-discovered humanists. Topics go beyond a survey of important movements, schools, genres, and subgenres to include interdisciplinary subjects that are elemental in contemporary and popular Italian culture. For instance, readers will find thematic essays on French and German influences, "Migration Literature," and "Fumetti" (comics) among a multitude of nonliterary threads in such categories as cinema, fashion, animation, and "The Culture of Food."

Although Italian literature and culture is treated in a score of notable dictionaries, historical surveys, and companions, no other source compares in scope to *Italian Literary Studies*. This is a much-needed reference tool. Its extended essays give biographical and critical treatment with historical tracings and enumerative bibliographies. In comparison, Hainsworth and Robey's *The Oxford Companion to Italian Literature* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2002) is essential as a starting point for students, researchers, and Italianists, with its concise articles, maps, and chronology of Italian literature. Yet now readers can go beyond that base to elaborative contexts that include lesser literary figures, subgenres such as "Romanzo Rosa," and critical treatments of influential works, such as Dario Fo's denounced *Mistero Buffo*. Unequal in quality to the Oxford dictionary, yet useful for its summative articles,