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## SOURCES

With many other choices for resources on climate change, this is an optional purchase for most libraries.—*Linda Loos Scarth, retired reference librarian, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

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***Debating Issues in American Education: A Sage Reference Set.*** Ed. By Charles J. Russo and Allan G. Osborne. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2013. (ISBN: 978-1-4129-8978-7).

The editors' ambitious endeavor to capture as many of the important debates in American education is well achieved throughout well-developed volumes that miss very little in capturing the contemporary educational landscape in America. Each volume has an extensive introduction in which the main issues are discussed with historical, legal, and cultural foundations provided so the reader can better contextualize the individual topics. There is also a good amount of useful examination of issues across multiple volumes. For example, charter schools have sections in four of the volumes, with each providing a different understanding of the issue. There are some issues covered that may not be useful to a wide audience, such as "Should Teachers Be Subject to Drug Testing," and "Should Students Be Required to Engage in Fund-Raising Activities as a Condition of Participating in Certain Activities or Events?" However, the series manages to cover all major issues in more than adequate depth.

The structure of *Debating Issues in American Education* provides roughly 15 topics per volume with 3 essays per topic: overview, point, and counterpoint. Issues covered are relevant to students and educators, and cover a wide range of topics. In general, the overview essays summarize the issues and emphasize the interplay between the point/counterpoint essays. As the point/counterpoint essays are brief (4–5 pages each) and reference each other, the overview essays occasionally seem unnecessary. The list of contributors includes an impressive collection of education faculty, practitioners with extensive academic credentials, school administrators, and other specialists such as attorneys specializing in education law. Series Editor Charles J. Russo, of The University of Dayton, has a wealth of relevant experience and publications in the field of education. Russo has also edited several education related encyclopedias, including *Encyclopedia of Law and Higher Education* (Sage, 2010). The other series editor, Allan G. Osborne, has a wealth of experience as a principal, and has published widely on special education and education law.

*Debating Issues in American Education* is a needed addition to the reference literature on American education, as there are no encyclopedias that provide the same contemporary and comprehensive overview while also providing the legal, cultural, and theoretical backgrounds of current issues in American education. Recent encyclopedias that cover similar ground are Sage's *Encyclopedia of the Social and Cultural Foundations of Education* (2009), which provides some similar entries, but is much more historical in nature. *Encyclopedia of American Education* (Facts on File, revised edition released in 2007) does not offer the same focus on debating issues,

and offers more material on historical development than contemporary topics. The 2003 *Encyclopedia of Education* (MacMillan) is also a title with many similar entries, but the decade after its publishing has been extremely important as the effects of No Child Left Behind legislation have become clearer. Although there are no recent encyclopedias with the focus on framing the debates in the United States about educational issues, there are "reference-like" series, such as Gale's *Opposing Viewpoints* that purport to offer the same treatment of educational issues as *Debating Issues in American Education*. However, the essays in *Debating Issues in American Education* are much more scholarly. But, the research-based writing in the essays contained in this encyclopedia does not hinder the readability and accessibility for a variety of audiences, from college freshmen to graduate students to the interested parent. The scholarly yet highly accessible writing makes this work highly valuable for busy practitioners who need broader context or a student seeking more background on an issue for a presentation or paper. Individual volumes from the *Debating Issues in American Education* can be purchased separately (for a small premium), with all volumes of high quality and worthy of purchase if libraries cannot afford the series. In sum, even libraries with most recent education reference sources mentioned above will find significant value in this important series. Highly recommended for all libraries. Libraries not able to purchase the entire series are highly encouraged to consider individual volumes.—*Shannon Pritting, Access and Resource Sharing Librarian, Syracuse University Libraries*

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***An Encyclopedia of American Women at War: From the Home Front to the Battlefields.*** Ed. By Lisa Tendrich Frank. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2013. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-59884-443-6). Ebook available (978-1-59884-444-3), call for pricing.

Lisa Tendrich Frank, whose previous works include *Civil War: People and Perspectives* (ABC-CLIO, 2009) and *Women in the American Civil War* (ABC-CLIO, 2008), presents an interesting and thorough investigation of the various roles women have played in and around conflicts throughout American history in *An Encyclopedia of American Women at War: From the Home Front to the Battlefields*. The intent of this encyclopedia is to "examine the various ways that women have participated in military life" (xxi). The entries focus on topics such as "specific professions, organizations, court cases, military policies, wars, branches of the military, American ethnic and racial groups, and individuals" (xxi), with the bulk of the entries focusing on individuals. The entries are succinct, entertaining, and well-written. One of the more valuable aspects of this work is its inclusion of entries dealing with topics on the periphery of war, for example the pacifist "Jane Addams" and "Victory Gardens." These types of entries help to paint a fuller picture of women's interactions with American wars than would be achieved by simply profiling women who directly served in the wars.

Special features include a “Chronology” outlining important dates in the history of women in American wars and a comprehensive “Bibliography.” The “Categorical Index” is also helpful in grouping entries into browsable themes and includes “Individuals,” “Conflicts and Theaters of Operation,” “Court Cases and Legislation,” “Organizations and Groups,” and “Minorities and Miscellaneous.” “See also” references are helpful as well in contextualizing the entries. The encyclopedia’s contributors include a good mix of academics and historians, many with military expertise.

While there are other similar reference works available, most deal with women in specific conflicts (for example, Doris Weatherford’s *American Women During World War II: An Encyclopedia* (Routledge, 2010)) or more broadly in conflicts worldwide and throughout history (for example, Bernard A. Cook’s *Women and War: A Historical Encyclopedia from Antiquity to the Present* (ABC-CLIO, 2006)) making this an ideal source for those interested specifically in American women’s war experiences.

This encyclopedia is recommended for any library supporting history or gender studies programs.—Emily Dill, Executive Director, University Library of Columbus, Columbus, Indiana

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***Encyclopedia of Jewish Folklore and Traditions.*** Ed. By Raphael Patai and Haya Bar-Itzhak. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2013. 2 vols. Alkaline \$299 (ISBN 978-0-7656-2025).

The *Encyclopedia of Jewish Folklore and Traditions* follows a typical A–Z format. Articles are signed by contributors briefly identified with their academic affiliation in volume one, contain see also references to related topics, and conclude with a bibliography of works consulted or cited. Some articles are illustrated by black and white photographs. Both volumes feature a small section of unpaginated color reproductions from various identified sources. Helpful appendices list sources, definitions and abbreviations for the Hebrew Scriptures, rabbinic commentaries and other writings, medieval collections of stories, and anthologies of Jewish folklore. Cross-references and an index to the encyclopedia’s subject matter guide the reader to articles on specific topics.

In line with contemporary folklore studies the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Folklore and Traditions* accepts both oral and written transmissions as valid expressions of folk culture. Uniformity in transliteration of Yiddish words is achieved by the adoption of the standard YIVO system. Hebrew words are more broadly transliterated to reflect modern pronunciation and usage familiar to English speakers. When places are known by several names the various names are noted. Personal names follow the spelling used by the individual.

Jewish folk narratives that share common motifs with other cultures are accorded the Arne and Thompson international classification (Antti Arne and Stith Thompson, *The Types of Folktale: A Classification and Bibliography* second revised edition published in 1961 by Suomalainen

Tiedeakatemia; updated in 3 volumes by Hans-Jörg Uther and published by Suomalainen Tiedeakatemia in 2004 as *The Types of International Folktales: A Classification and Bibliography Based on the System of Antti Arne and Stith Thompson*). Folk narratives that the Israel Folktale Archives has defined as uniquely Jewish are noted as such.

Jewish folklore can be categorized as cognitive (beliefs, customs), verbal (tales, proverbs, riddles, parables, jokes, laments), visual (dance, art, costume, food, material culture), or audio/oral (music, songs), all of which are incorporated into the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Folklore and Traditions*. Perhaps more than other peoples Jews have created, transmitted, and preserved their folklore and traditions through the written word incorporating culture and custom into rabbinic commentary and interpretation and into the novels, poetry, and plays of Jewish authors. These too are addressed in the encyclopedia.

Beliefs and traditions developed around the Jewish life cycle and appointed festivals were important signifiers of their identity among Jews living in diaspora. Numerous articles concern folk wisdom and customs associated with birth, circumcision, coming of age, marriage, death, and burial.

Nor were diaspora Jews unaffected by the dominant culture of the nations among which they lived. The encyclopedia includes articles on specific Jewish communities throughout the diaspora, folk legends about Jews initiated by their gentile neighbors, and the incorporation of non-Hebrew words into a modified spoken vernacular through which oral expressions of folkways were transmitted.

Among the several compilations of Jewish folklore that may already reside on library reference shelves the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Folklore and Traditions* is unique in its application of rigorous scholarly standards in folklore studies. Alan Unterman’s *Dictionary of Jewish Lore and Legend* (Thames and Hudson, 1991) employs the richness of Jewish folk culture as a means for understanding Judaism, not as a study in folklore. Entries in the *Encyclopedia of Folklore and Literature*, edited by Mary Ellen Brown and Bruce A. Rosenberg (ABC-CLIO, 1998) employ the scholarly study of folklore as it relates to world literature but coverage of Jewish themes and authors is limited. Coverage of Jewish folktales is even more limited in *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Folktales and Fairy Tales* edited by Donald Haase (Greenwood Press, 2008, 3 vols.). Jewish folktales included in the second volume of *Folklore: an Encyclopedia of Beliefs, Customs, Tales, Music, and Art* edited by Charlie T. McCormick and Kim Kennedy White (ABC-CLIO, 2011, 2nd edition, 3 vols.) compliment rather than substitute for the more comprehensive *Encyclopedia of Jewish Folklore and Traditions*. Encyclopedia Mythica ([www.pantheon.org](http://www.pantheon.org)), the free online encyclopedia of myths and folktales, includes a section on Jewish folktales that contains as of this writing 194 articles, some little more than a dictionary-type definition. Much of the content in this section has been contributed by Rabbi Geoffrey W. Dennis. Save for Biblical references, sources are unmentioned.

The *Encyclopedia of Jewish Folklore and Traditions*’ primary readership includes students and scholars engaged in the