wider historical context. The glossary at the end of each volume provides brief descriptions of personalities, record labels, and important musical titles. The reference guide or bibliography in each volume is extensive. In addition, each volume’s index is thorough and includes cross references.

Because of this set’s comprehensiveness, it is difficult to compare it with other reference books on the subject. The most recent competing volume is *Rolling Stone: The Decades of Rock & Roll* (Chronicle Bks. 2001). This single-volume work is similarly divided into five parts (1950s to 1990s), but each article focuses on a specific performer or recording and is written by a different author. *Jazz-Rock: A History* by Stuart Nicholson (Canongate, 1998), *Rock and Roll: A Social History* by Paul Friedlander (Westview, 1996), and *Rock & Roll: An Unruly History* by Robert Palmer (Harmony, 1995) are single-volume textbook treatments of the topic. The *Story of Rock ‘n’ Roll: The Year-by-Year Illustrated Chronicle* (Schirmer Bks., 1995) is arranged by decade in a single volume with a lavish number of full-color photos. Another *Rolling Stone* title is *The Rolling Stone Illustrated History of Rock and Roll* (Random, 1992). However, unlike the 2001 title, this one is a collection of nearly one hundred articles by various authors, arranged in a narrative format. Finally, the *Encyclopedia of Rock* (Crescent Bks., 1983) is lavishly illustrated with color photos, but is now twenty-three years out-of-date.

Because of its thoroughness and scholarly approach, *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Rock History* is an indispensable set that should be placed in the collections of all public libraries and in academic libraries serving music programs.—Mark Palkovic, Head Librarian, College-Conservatory of Music Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio


This two-volume set explores immigration in America from the seventeenth century to the present. To make the case for the importance of the topic, the introduction notes that the vast majority of current U.S. residents are immigrants or descendants of immigrants, which makes immigration a large part of the narrative of American history. The essays cover general and specific topics (such as picture brides and the bracero program), significant laws and court cases, prominent individuals, and summaries of the experiences of particular ethnic groups in the United States.

Arranged alphabetically, the 193 essays offer thoughtful, concise overviews that are easy to understand. They contain many features that enhance their usefulness to a general audience. “Significance boxes” highlight and summarize the importance of a particular article. “See also” references help readers discover related information in other essays in the set, while a “Further Reading” section provides a selective bibliography. The set is decently, if not lavishly, illustrated with graphs, charts, and black-and-white photographs. Access is facilitated through several specialized indexes of court cases, laws and treaties, persons, subjects, and a category index that groups related articles under broad topics or ethnic groups (for example, “Chinese Immigrants”).


In spite of the obvious duplication, there is some value in having the immigration-related content pulled from many publications and collected in a single thematic set. Readers can easily make connections between concepts using the cross-references provided, and can quickly get a sense of the range of immigration issues by scanning the contents. Immigration-related material that may be subsumed in a broader work is here made prominent. In spite of these benefits, libraries owning most of the original works will have to carefully weigh the cost against tight budgets. Given its clear language and ease of use, this would be an especially valuable addition for public and school libraries lacking the original publications.—Eric Novotny, Humanities Librarian, Penn State University Libraries, University Park, Pennsylvania


Filled with more information and features than one usually finds in a specialized dictionary or encyclopedia for middle- and high-school students, this five-volume work contains five hundred alphabetical entries on the gods, goddesses, heroes, places, and other important aspects of Greek and Roman mythology. The text contains short, lively sentences and is printed using a large, clean face type with plenty of white space. The four hundred or so illustrations—line drawings; graphic novel-type artwork; color photographs of art, maps, and “added information” boxes—generally have captions that serve to expand and enhance the text.

Each of the entries begins with the title in bold type, the word in Greek (if appropriate), and a pronunciation guide. Typically, the gender, culture, and main attributes of the character or person are displayed, followed by a brief (three to five sentences) summary of important points. Longer entries, varying in length from two to seven pages, have cross