

SOURCES

area for concern. Approximately thirty of the nearly 250 contributors to the work are not affiliated with an educational institution, but are listed as “Independent Scholars.” Combined with the fact that none of the articles are signed, this may be of concern to selectors who strive to balance shrinking budgets with purchases of information sources of the highest quality. The single-volume works mentioned earlier are preferable for collections with space limitations and tight budgets.—*Carla K. Bauman-Franks, Assistant Manager, Readers’ Services Department, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

World Police Encyclopedia. Ed. by Dilip K. Das and Michael J. Palmiotto. New York: Routledge, 2006. 2 vols. acid free \$350 (ISBN 0-415-94250-0).

This new set by Das and Palmiotto offers a cross-cultural, global approach to their collected analyses of police systems and procedures, a perspective necessary with the “accelerated expansion of communications, trade, and transnational political organizations” (xi).

The 193 entries in *World Police Encyclopedia* consist of United Nation member countries and nonmember Taiwan; each listing is signed and submitted by renowned criminal-justice scholars and professionals from all over the world. Entries are arranged alphabetically by country and follow a common format to better compare countries’ practices: “Background Material” lists the country’s location, population statistics (including ethnic composition), and GDP statistics; “Contextual Features” describes the country’s political structure; and “Police Profile” details information about police demographics, organization, functions, training, complaint procedures, and international cooperation. Some entries also include a “Police Education, Research, and Publications” section, which not only includes leading researchers and authors, but also related Web sites. A bibliography—often quite extensive—concludes each entry.

An especially exciting feature of this new encyclopedia is the analytical index placed at the end of both volumes. The index includes countries and people, as well as subjects such as “Kidnapping,” “Death Penalty,” “Gang Activity,” and “Neighborhood Organizations,” which should appeal to researchers and students of criminal justice as well as those from other social sciences.

This new work updates information in George Thomas Kurian’s *World Encyclopedia of Police Forces and Penal Systems* (Facts On File, 1989). And though it does not cover non-United Nation member countries (except for Taiwan), or go into as much depth about penal systems as Kurian’s work does, *World Police Encyclopedia* greatly expands information about policing, especially with its inclusion of police public projects and use of firearms. The inclusion of terrorism and international policing also makes this new work a must-have. Highly recommended for college, research, and large public libraries.—*Jennifer Johnston, Reference Librarian, Norman F. Feldheim Library, San Bernardino Public Library, California*

Professional Materials

Karen Antell

Editor

The Children’s and Young Adult Literature Handbook: A Research and Reference Guide. By John T. Gillespie. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2005. 353p. \$90 (ISBN 1-56308-949-1).

This handbook is truly broad in scope, bringing a more global approach to children’s literature than its previous edition, *Children’s Literature: A Guide to Information Services* (1998) by Margaret W. Denman-West. Well-organized by topic, this book evaluates more than one thousand publications. It covers a broad range of resources, including general background sources, bibliographies, reviewing tools, children’s magazines, curriculum guides, awards and prizes, biographies of authors and illustrators, professional organizations, publishers, and booksellers. The most important aspect of Gillespie’s work is that it includes more than American materials, encompassing resources from other English-speaking countries including Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. These additions add new viewpoints and perspectives, broadening the range of the handbook.

Each chapter begins with a detailed chapter outline that allows the reader to locate sources quickly and efficiently. The chapters on curriculum guides give updated resources on topics such as social studies, history, folktales, art, and religion. The chapter on multicultural sources includes a section on ESL materials, but fails to include cultural groups outside the United States.

The sources are up-to-date and reflect the current diversity in children’s literature. Descriptions of older materials include contemporary relevancy and pinpoint the material’s importance to the field of children’s and young adult literature.

Perhaps the most helpful tool is the use of descriptors that lend insight into the tone and style of the materials. Evaluative words such as “practical,” “provocative,” and “accessible” help give the reader clues to the usefulness of each resource. Name, title, and subject indexes give easy access to the material included in each chapter. This handbook, with its inclusion of international resources and updated and descriptive entries, is a useful selection guide and collection-development tool for all librarians. In addition, this text can be used as a source for researchers and scholars.—*Jenny Foster Stenis, Coordinator of Children’s Services, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma*

Guide to Information Sources in the Forensic Sciences. By Cynthia Holt. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 190p. \$70 (ISBN 1-59158-221-0).

Guide to Information Sources in the Forensic Sciences is timely, comprehensive, and valuable. As the title accurately portrays, this bibliographic work provides an essential start-