Reference source. Each volume contains a reader’s guide that groups entries into topical categories; a list of entries for the entire set; and lists of the primary sources and illustrations featured in volume 5. In addition to an introduction by the general editor describing the inspiration, history, and development of the set, there are lists of editorial and advisory board members and contributors; and biographical information about the general and associate editors and senior advisory board. A detailed chronology on disability and a discussion on how to search and evaluate disability Web sites are provided at the end of each volume.

A search of WorldCat offers evidence that Encyclopedia of Disability fills an important niche in the literature by providing a comprehensive, historical, and multicultural source of information on this important topic. Encyclopedia of Disability and Rehabilitation by Dell Orto and Marinelli (Macmillan, 1995) is only 820 pages in length and was published more than a decade ago, which is significant in a field that has changed so much since then. On the other hand, two publications by Reynolds and Fletcher-Janzen, Concise Encyclopedia of Special Education (Wiley, 2002) and Encyclopedia of Special Education: A Reference for the Education of the Handicapped and Other Exceptional Children and Adults (Wiley, 2000) are more recent, but concentrate on only one aspect of disability. Tver and Tver’s Encyclopedia of Mental and Physical Handicaps (Pre-Ed, 1991) is not only from the early 1990s, just after the passage of the Americans with Disability Act, but even the title of the volume uses outdated terminology.

Encyclopedia of Disability would be an appropriate addition to nearly any library collection. It is a lovely set of beautifully produced volumes and the price is more than reasonable given the quality of the work. Disability is an issue that confronts everyone, whether as a patient, family member, service provider, legislator, fundraiser, or taxpayer, making this set a particularly good purchase for public libraries—Sara Anne Hook, Professor and Associate Dean, Indiana University School of Informatics, Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis.


A reference work that tackles important theories, issues, and people dedicated to the field of educational leadership and administration would be a welcome addition to reference collections in libraries. Encyclopedia of Educational Leadership and Administration, completed after two years of work under the guidance of Editor Fenwick W. English, accomplishes just that. English, an accomplished academic and author in the field of educational leadership, has created an encyclopedia for current and future school administrators that will be most helpful in educating the next generation of leaders working within the current climate of accountability and rigid standardization in public education.

The 260-some contributors wrote entries ranging from one to twelve pages, all with important additional references for further reading. Both volumes include a basic alphabetical list of entries and a “Reader’s Guide” as well as a shorter list of entries by topic, such as administration, economics, and law and policy, to name a few. The entries appear to be primarily grounded in the history of education, important movements within education, and educational and learning theory. The entries range across the common listings that one would expect in a work dedicated to administration, such as “Leadership Styles” and “Affirmative Action,” but the number of interesting biographies included was a pleasant surprise. Amidst the heavier, theory-driven entries, readers will find spots dedicated to activist and educator Mary McLeod Bethune and philosopher and educator Plato.

While undergraduate education majors and future teachers may benefit from a more general reference work dedicated to education, this set will be an excellent resource for those studying administration. The longer, in-depth essays address important administrative issues such as accountability, diversity, and legal topics. Students in educational administration graduate programs and current school administrators will get the most use from this work. Its depth and breadth within the topic are admirable; the only weakness is that it is a rather specialized topic. This set would be an excellent addition to academic libraries supporting education or educational-administration programs, and an optional purchase for public libraries because of its specialized content and price.—Michelle S. Millet, Information Literacy Coordinator, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas


The distinction between fantasy and supernatural fiction (which is sometimes called “dark fantasy” or “horror”) is often unclear, as explained by Don D’Ammassa in the introduction to this work. A professional writer, D’Ammassa offers a brief taxonomic and historical discussion, touching on several subcategories and identifying major representatives in each.

The bulk of the work is an alphabetical arrangement of entries devoted to primary and secondary authors as well as important stories, novels, and series. The entries range from two paragraphs to two pages. D’Ammassa reaches back to early writers such as Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, includes popular contemporary figures such as J. K. Rowling, adds some “newer writers who may become the leading names over the next few years” (viii), and finds room for such unfairly neglected figures as “Sarban” (John William Wall).

Key works by writers the caliber of Shelley and Rowling receive separate entries, while lesser figures are represented by a short author entry only, or by one or more title entries. D’Ammassa typically places writers and works in the larger context of their periods and genres, but the only references to sources of further information appear in a very short secondary bibliography.

Although two stories by the great Jorge Luis Borges are included, D’Ammassa’s emphasis among twentieth-century authors tends to be upon genre writers. Missing are such