

geocomputation, to applications of GISci, such as organizational and institutional aspects or societal issues. The topics covered range from relatively simple to highly complex concepts that might only be of interest to a high-end practitioner. Even a concept like “Distance” is first defined simply but then expanded into “Euclidean Distance,” “Distance along a Path,” “Weighted Distance,” and “Distance and Map Projection.”

The entries vary in length according to the subject matter covered. The longer sections focus on core themes and major sub-disciplines of GISci. The shorter sections tend to be descriptions of organizations and definitions of simple topics. All of the entries are signed. The list of contributors is very impressive. It is an international collection of educators and researchers that reads like *Who’s Who* in GISci. The index in the back of the volume is thorough, intricate, and easy to use. The volume is not heavily illustrated, though a few entries are, like the one for “Shaded Relief.” If there is a criticism of the volume it is that it could have used illustrations to better explain some of the concepts, such as topographic maps or remote sensing.

This volume is very different from the recently published *Handbook of Geographic Information Science*, edited by John P. Wilson and A. Stewart Fotheringham (Blackwell, 2008). The latter is a collection of chapters on various aspects of GISci. The chapters are scholarly, well written, and informational but the work is not really intended to be what libraries would consider a basic reference resource. It is more of a graduate level reader that might accompany a class. The *Handbook* is very similar to another work, *Foundations of Geographic Information Science*, edited by Matt Duckham, Michael F. Goodchild, and Michael F. Worboys (Taylor and Francis, 2003).

Lately, I have been less than enthusiastic about purchasing reference books in the field of geosciences or geography. I rarely observe the reference books we have being used by students or faculty. If up-to-date information in a certain area is easily found on the Web from trusted sites, I generally do not purchase reference material that duplicates it. That being said, the *Encyclopedia of Geographic Information Science* is unique and fills an important niche. I highly recommend this volume. It would be appropriate for any library that serves a population who uses geographic information systems or studies geographic information science. Universities, colleges, community colleges, and even large public libraries should seriously consider this work for their reference collections. The pricing makes it affordable at almost every level. I would almost say it is a must for those who support this sort of research and application.—*Suzanne T. Larsen, Faculty Director, Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Sciences and Map Library, Faculty Director, Oliver C. Lester Mathematics and Physics Library, University of Colorado Boulder*

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***Encyclopedia of Global Health.*** Ed. by Yawei Zhang. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2008. 4 vols. alkaline \$425 (ISBN 978-1-4129-4186-0).

This new encyclopedia from Sage fills a rather unique niche: global health. It complements Lester Breslow’s *Encyclopedia of Public Health* (Macmillan Reference USA, 2002). Breslow’s

encyclopedia focuses on the United States and on public health issues, legislation, and policy. *Encyclopedia of Global Health* puts much emphasis on the title word “global.”

In addition to entries on basic health issues such as different types of cancer, the encyclopedia offers separate entries for 191 countries. The health conditions in each country are described in as much detail as is available. The one thing I would have liked to see with these entries is a map of the region with the country highlighted. In addition to these country entries, the appendix in volume 4 consists of tables of each country’s Core Health Indicators from the World Health Organization. These indicators include life expectancy at birth for each gender, health life expectancy, and other basic statistics.

The tables in the appendix are the only tables in the *Encyclopedia of Global Health*. There are no graphs, either. Black-and-white photographs are used to liven up the text, but they are very general. Perhaps for that reason, the font used is large and easy to read. And to my relief, the index is in the same size font as the text. No squinting needed!

Other nice attributes include a “Reader’s Guide” in volume 1 that categorizes the individual entries under headings such as Diseases, Systematic, and Procedures and Therapies. Volume 1 also includes a chronology of important health events from 8000 BCE to the present. A glossary and resource guide reside in volume 4, and each volume includes a complete index to the set.

The entries are written for the knowledgeable layperson and include short bibliographies. In addition to the coverage of countries, many health organizations have their own entries. The expected diseases, disorders, and health issues are covered. The encyclopedia also includes other topics touching on global health, such as bioinformatics, coefficient of inbreeding, and demographic transition.

I was concerned about the number of contributing authors listed as independent scholars. But after contacting the producer of the work, I found that some academics don’t want their institutions listed, some are retired academics, and others are experienced freelance writers.

I will add this encyclopedia to the science reference collection at my library. I think public libraries and college libraries will find it useful because it examines health in a more global way than many other reference works.—*Robin N. Sinn, Librarian for Science and Engineering, The Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland*

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***Encyclopedia of Love in World Religions.*** Ed. by Yudit K. Greenberg. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 2 vols. alkaline \$265 (ISBN 978-1-85109-980-1).

This work claims to be the “first reference work to offer a comprehensive, multidisciplinary investigation of the subject of love in the classical and contemporary literature” (xxvii) of a wide-ranging number of world religions. The editors believe that the topic of love in world religions has been ignored at the expense of subjects such as sexuality, and that their book fills a void. To that end they are correct, and they’ve created