

SOURCES

and immigrants and refugees; and “Statistics and Research Methods,” which furnishes 142 entries for various techniques, such as normal distribution, null and alternative hypotheses, and peer review process. The latter category of entries contains numerous visuals and tables to further assist understanding.

The index to the overall set is provided at the end of each volume. The index highlights main article topics and corresponding volumes and page numbers in boldface. The cross-referencing further illuminates interrelationships between topics. For example, the entry for obesity tells users to see the related entries for body mass index, cardiovascular disease, chronic disease epidemiology, diabetes, and urban sprawl.

The length of articles ranges from a paragraph to several pages. Longer articles usually are divided by relevant topical subheadings, which along with the article title appear in boldface. For example, the entry for Latino health issues has the subheadings of: sociodemographic facts in Latino health, diabetes, asthma, cancer, cardiovascular and pulmonary health issues, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. All articles end with a brief bibliography and the author's name. Select entries also provide a brief listing of related websites.

The only shortcoming in this work is that no information is provided about the authors' credentials beyond their institutional affiliation. Each entry concludes with the author's name; the full list of contributors and affiliations is included in the first volume.

The editors of *Encyclopedia of Epidemiology* have identified a gap in the literature and prepared a well-designed and information-rich reference that is long overdue. The resource will be especially useful for students wanting to explore frequent report topics such as euthanasia, physical activity and health, pollution, poverty and health, and tobacco from epidemiological perspectives. Therefore, this work is recommended for all academic collections. It can also be used by researchers, policymakers, and other professionals.—*Caroline Geck, Librarian, Kean University, Union, New Jersey*

Encyclopedia of Gay and Lesbian Popular Culture. By Luca Prono. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 328p. alkaline \$85 (ISBN 978-0-313-33599-0).

Prono's slim, but thoughtful, collection of essays focuses on well-known American and British individuals whose works, words, and deeds have helped “redefine and shape” contemporary views of gays and lesbians (xi). The author also aims to educate readers about the difficulties of obtaining such visibility in a popular culture historically ruled by a powerful media, including the Hollywood film and television industry. By focusing the encyclopedia only on popular culture, he has successfully moved his point of view across for a general readership.

For the most part, entries are biographical in nature. A small selection addresses a particular film or television program that has impacted the popular culture. The contents closely follow the social and cultural evolution and revolution

of the United States from the 1960s forward, so most of the entries are from the later twentieth-century time period. Prono casts a wide net for his entries and includes writers, actors, sports figures, film directors, and musicians. Significant figures from earlier periods of the twentieth century, those who either have a continuing influence on gay and lesbian popular culture (e.g., Judy Garland and Barbara Stanwyck), or those whose sexuality was hidden behind a successful career and well-managed public relations campaign (e.g., Rock Hudson and Raymond Burr) are also included. The writing is engaging and interesting; it is readable and accessible to wide audience.

Similar works have captured a broader scope of gay and lesbian history, notably Steve Hogan and Lee Hudson's *Completely Queer: The Gay and Lesbian Encyclopedia* (Henry Holt, 1998) and Neil Schlager's *Gay and Lesbian Almanac* (St. James, 1998). Prono's work is a welcome update in the field. It falls in between the short treatments of Hogan and Hudson and the longer treatments of Schlager. Each entry is two to three pages and includes suggestions for further reading.

There is some minor fact checking needed for a second edition, (e.g., Sylvester was a member of the Cockettes, not the Crockettes), as well as the usual typos or grammar problems that slip by in the first edition. That being said, this is a recommended purchase for public or college libraries.—*Christopher Lee Cochran, Reference Librarian, Washington, D.C.*

Encyclopedia of Geographic Information Science. Ed. by Karen K. Kemp. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2008. 584p. acid free \$150 (ISBN 978-1-4129-1313-3).

“Geographic information Science is an information science focusing on the collection, modeling, management, display, and interpretation of geographic data. It is an integrative field, combining concepts, theories, and techniques from a wide range of disciplines, allowing new insights and innovative synergies for increased understanding of our world” (xxii). This definition of geographic information science (GISci) by editor Karen Kemp is as clear and succinct a definition as I have seen and it sets the tone for the volume. *Encyclopedia of Geographic Information Science* is an interdisciplinary work that successfully explores the depth, breadth, and diverse content of GISci. Even the correct acronym is not universally agreed upon. Kemp's strong interest in GISci education as well as GISci research is inherent in the character, content, and organization of this volume. In 2004, she was named the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) Educator of the Year.

I would characterize the volume as a hybrid: part encyclopedia, part dictionary, and part textbook. A reader's guide section is enlightening and helps one to understand the concepts and their interrelationships. In some respects, it can be considered a concept map of the topics in the volume. These range from the mechanisms of GISci, such as conceptual foundations, data manipulation, design aspects, and

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*

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*

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