

rather than a reflection on editor or contributor bias. Entries are grouped into thematic clusters, which is especially helpful for those new to the field and those most interested in specific subsets of the field. The entries vary in length depending on importance of topic, but all use a very appropriate economy of words and are highly readable, with suggestions for further readings. Entries also include cross references that successfully tie the multidisciplinary scholarship together.

This work holds a strong position as a stepping stone in the evolution of literature on men and masculinities. Because of the overall quality of the work and the relative novelty of the field of study, *International Encyclopedia of Men and Masculinities* is recommended for most college and university libraries.—Emily Dill, Assistant Librarian, Indiana University-Purdue University, Columbus

International Encyclopedia of Social Policy. Ed. by Tony Fitzpatrick, Nick Manning, James Midgely, Huck-ju Kwon, and Gillian Pascall. New York: Routledge, 2007. 3 vols. \$595 (ISBN 978-0-415-25896-8).

Among the significant challenges in compiling a reference work about social policy is defining its scope. Social policy is a dynamic field that overlaps with numerous other disciplines and, depending upon the location, the concept may have different meanings. Much effort is expended to address this issue in the introduction to *International Encyclopedia of Social Policy*. The editors make a point of distinguishing social policy from public policy and social work, and the following definition is given: social policy is “systematic public interventions relating to social needs and problems” (x). With this definition as its guide, the encyclopedia sets ambitious goals: to be “as inclusive as possible without being indiscriminate” (xi), to “articulate the state of this protean field at the early years of the century without necessarily chasing each and every new development” (viii), and to cover a “far broader range of subjects than have thus far been addressed within a single work without sacrificing in-depth, thoughtful treatment” (viii). Finally, while it does not purport to “squeeze the entire globe into its confines” (viii), it attempts to be inclusive and as “cross-national” as possible.

The two-hundred- to three-thousand-word essays, written by an international team of scholars, fall into five categories: “concise definitions of core disciplinary categories” (xi), “in-depth, conceptual entries deal[ing] with theoretical and abstract issues, themes and perspectives” (xi), “a range of empirical entries—quantifiable social phenomena such as unemployment—based in concrete research” (xi), “biographies of prominent figures and organizations” (xi), and “geographical profiles of countries in which social policies are either most developed or distinct” (xi). All entries are signed and most entries have “see also” references at the end. Only “major” articles contain a list of further reading thereby limiting the usefulness of “non-major” entries for the researcher using the publication to launch a search.

There are reference materials covering subsets of the

broad topic of social policy, such as Noel and Rita Timms’ now-dated *Dictionary of Social Welfare* (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1982); Jay Schafritz’s *International Encyclopedia of Public Policy and Administration* (Westview, 1998); Pete Alcock, Angus Erskine, and Margaret May’s *The Blackwell Dictionary of Social Policy* (Blackwell, 2002), which covers the United Kingdom; and Anand Sirohi’s *Encyclopedia of Social Welfare: Modern Perspective on Social Work* (Dominant, 2005), which covers India; but no other publication has the breadth of *International Encyclopedia of Social Policy*. Unlike any other work in this area, it is a solid and successful attempt to make sense of the complex and dynamic field of social policy. Generally, the entries present a cross-national perspective, although some, such as the “Social Welfare” entry, focus primarily on the United Kingdom. The individual entries are thoughtful and well-written. The index, which appears in every volume, is comprehensive and useful. If there is any weakness to this set it is that, despite all the effort to clarify the scope at the outset, more discussion about the criteria for inclusion, such as how prominent figures were identified, would have been helpful. Despite this minor defect, the set is a valuable tool for those wishing to understand social policy at this point in history. It is highly recommended for academic libraries with strong social science collections.—Joann E. Donatiello, Population Research Librarian, Donald E. Stokes Library, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

J. R. R. Tolkien Encyclopedia: Scholarship and Critical Assessment. Ed. by Michael D. C. Drout. New York: Routledge, 2007. 808p. acid free \$199 (ISBN 978-0-415-96942-0).

The *J. R. R. Tolkien Encyclopedia* aims to cover Tolkien’s “life, scholarship, inspirations, cultural contexts, and social effects” (xxix). In other words, this is not the reference source for the budding *Lord of the Rings* fan. This is the reference source for the budding Tolkien scholar who desires to learn more about the two worlds of scholarship editor Drout mentions in the introduction: “‘Tolkien Studies’—scholarship about Tolkien the author and his works of literature—and ‘Middle-earth Studies’—analysis of Tolkien’s invented worlds, histories, languages, creatures” (xxix). While many other Tolkien sources focus on the intricacies of Middle-earth, the *Tolkien Encyclopedia* touches on major themes in his work, important aspects of his life, literary criticism, and how the work fits into the rest of the world. Although the reader may not find out who Ioreth is, to what month Rethe corresponds, or where Dunharrow is, he or she will discover how Jungian theory applies to Tolkien’s works, how World War I affected the author, the importance of the scholarship of Ida Gordon, and the details about Tolkien fan fiction.

This is not to say that fans of Middle-earth and its inhabitants cannot use the *Tolkien Encyclopedia* as a guide; there are plenty of entries devoted to major characters, places, and invented languages. But such fans would be better off consulting Robert Foster’s much acclaimed *A Complete Guide to Middle-earth: Tolkien’s World from A to Z* (Random House, 2001)

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or any number of similar tours through Middle-earth.

J. R. R. Tolkien *Encyclopedia* includes an alphabetical list and a thematic list of entries, and each entry includes a bibliography and cross reference information. A detailed index is included, which lists in bold those terms that have separate entries.

The editor's goal was to "bridge gaps and bring together separate branches of knowledge" (xxix), a goal that is met, albeit briefly. Serious Tolkien scholars whose appetites are whet by this volume will need to seek out more specialized information, but the *Tolkien Encyclopedia* is a suitable starting place. Recommended for large public and academic libraries.—Tracy Carr, *Specialized Reference Manager*, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson

McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, 10th Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2007. 20 vols. \$3,495 (ISBN: 007-144143-3 / 978-007-144143-8)

McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, first released in 1960 and revised approximately every five years since, is now in its tenth edition. For over forty years this encyclopedia has done—and continues to do—an admirable job of presenting relevant articles on every field of modern science and technology. The tenth edition (*EST10*) is a comprehensive revision with specific concentration on the areas of cell and molecular biology; information technology and communications; chemistry and materials science; nanotechnology; environmental, earth, and climate sciences; physical sciences and cosmology; and forensic sciences.

In terms of overall organization there have not been any substantial changes. The 7,100 articles are arranged alphabetically and include more than 60,000 cross-references. The twenty volumes in the set follow the same layout and alphabetical division of the ninth edition. Volumes 1 through 19 contain the articles, while volume 20 provides a reference section on scientific notation, 15 study guides, the topical and analytical indices, and the list of contributors. The study guides cover the same topics as the ninth edition, but additional entries listed within the guides reflect the new and revised article content, particularly in the areas of concentration mentioned above.

More than two thousand articles in *EST10* are new or revised. An informal comparison between the ninth and the tenth editions using fifty-one randomly selected articles revealed seven entirely new entries, twelve substantially revised entries, and five minimally updated entries. This higher-than-expected rate of revision is due in part to the fact that several of the new and substantially revised articles were in areas the revision targeted, such as forensic sciences and communications. Within the same random comparison, eighteen articles had not been revised, and two from the ninth edition were not included in the tenth. None of the eighteen articles were substantially out-of-date, nor did they cover topics where any major discoveries or changes had occurred since the last edition. In contrast, entries for topics such as "Planet" have

been appropriately updated to reflect recent developments such as the loss of planet status for Pluto.

Line drawings and diagrams, black-and-white photographs, and tables are used extensively to illustrate concepts within the articles. Color plates are used, although less often than black-and-white photographs or line drawings.

Articles are signed and author credentials are available from the complete list of contributors in volume 20. The vast majority of articles include bibliographies, some with references as recent as 2006. In three of the fifty-one comparisons mentioned earlier, the bibliography had been updated although the text of the article remained the same.

The outside of the encyclopedia set has undergone a complete facelift, resulting in a vibrant black and red color combination and a spine collage of sci-tech images surrounding the McGraw-Hill logo. Every cover includes the URL for a free companion Web site that provides a rotating collection of supplemental information such as podcasts, animations, images, article updates, online interviews, and so on.

Encyclopedia of Physical Science and Technology (Academic Press, 2001) is the title most commonly compared to previous editions of *EST10*. There is no indication that a new edition of the *EPST* is forthcoming, and even as a complimentary resource to the *EST10* it is quickly becoming outdated. The six-volume *Gale Encyclopedia of Science* (Thomson Gale, 2007) is neither as comprehensive nor written for the same audience. *Van Nostrand's Scientific Encyclopedia*, expected in mid-March 2008 as a three-volume set, will also not be as broad and inclusive as the *EST10* and would serve as a complimentary resource in a reference collection but not as an equivalent substitution.

Budget permitting, *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, 10th Edition* is highly recommended for large public and academic science reference collections. Depending on your library's funding and the preferences of your patrons and reference staff you might consider *AccessScience 2.0*, the online equivalent of *EST10*. *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology* is an essential component of a science reference collection and should never be more than one edition behind.—Aimée deChambeau, *Electronic Resources Librarian*, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York

Notable Natural Disasters. Ed. by Marlene Bradford and Robert S. Carmichael. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2007. 3 vols. alkaline \$217 (ISBN 978-1-58765-368-1).

Editors Marlene Bradford and Robert S. Carmichael worked with eighty-two contributors to compile this three-volume reference set on the one hundred worst natural disasters on record. These disasters were selected "based on loss of life, widespread destruction, and notable circumstances" (ix). The focus of this compilation is more on the natural side of disasters rather than those disasters that occurred due to human error.

Volume one presents overviews of twenty-three different types of disasters arranged alphabetically. Some of these