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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

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include avalanches, droughts, famines, floods, heat waves, hurricanes, tornadoes, and volcanic eruptions. Each overview essay includes a definition, the science behind the disaster, the geography, and an annotated bibliography. Many of the essays also provide a historical overview and summary of milestone events.

The entries on the one hundred worst disasters are in volumes two and three. These disasters are listed in chronological order starting with the meteorite impact that created the Yucatán crater in 65,000,000 BCE, and concluding with the Leyte Mudslide in the Philippines on February 17, 2006. These articles provide facts about the disaster such as the date, place, and result (deaths, injuries, infections, and monetary damage) along with a detailed account of the disaster. At the end of each article is a listing of books and periodicals for further reading. Entries vary in length from three pages for disasters that are not well known (for example, The Great London Smog of 1952 and the El Niño of 1982) to twelve-page entries about disasters that are more commonly known (such as The Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 and the Mount St. Helens eruption of 1980). Most of the entries include black-and-white photos, illustrations, or maps.

Volume 3 also contains some special features, including a glossary, time line, comprehensive bibliography, organizations and agencies, disasters organized by category, disasters organized geographically, and an index.

One weakness is the obvious duplication from Marlene Bradford and Robert S. Carmichael's *Natural Disasters* (Salem, 2001). The contributors are all the same as well as most of the text. But the publisher states in *Notable Natural Disasters* that, "this affordable subset of *Natural Disasters* (2001) has been rearranged and thoroughly updated with new bibliographic sources and entries on recent disasters" (vii). *Notable Natural Disasters* includes eight entries on more current disasters, including the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which cannot be found in Bradford and Carmichael's *Natural Disasters*. Nonetheless, the ninety-two other disaster entries and twenty-three disaster overviews were selected directly from *Natural Disasters* (Salem, 2001) with only slight revisions made to some of the text, photos, and bibliographies.

Overall, *Notable Natural Disasters* presents a clearly written and thorough account of some of the world's worst disasters. It is an appropriate and informative resource for high-school level users and beyond. But those libraries that already own Bradford and Carmichael's *Natural Disasters* may find little need for this reference work unless they want the eight entries on more recent disasters in their collections.—Megan Coder, Senior Assistant Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz

Professional Materials

Karen Antell

Editor

Alternative Publishers of Books in North America. 6th Edition. Byron Anderson. Duluth, Minnesota: Library Juice Press, 2006. 178 p. \$18 (ISBN-13: 978-0-9778617-2-9).

A divisive pluralistic society such as ours must grapple with serious issues that can profoundly affect the future of humanity. Byron Anderson, in his sixth edition of *Alternative Publishers of Books in North America*, continues his advocacy for the acquisition of books encompassing "all points of view" by producing an informative, updated, easy-to-use directory and reference tool.

Since the last edition was published in 2002, 33 new publisher profiles have been added to the alphabetical list of 162 noteworthy publishers of alternative literature. The independent publishers listed offer high-quality books that give alternative, radical, and progressive perspectives on important social issues such as education, health care, human rights, gender, labor, economics, aging, politics, social justice, multiculturalism, and the environment. One can easily find publishers on a particular subject by using the subject index. The 102 subject listings range from "adopted children" to "zine culture."

The annotated directory includes a brief history of the presses, their publication interests, examples of titles, the average number of titles published per year, titles in print, contact information with Web addresses, names of editors, ISBN prefixes, and the publisher's motto. To make ordering easier, the directory lists the distributors for each press. Major distributors used by many of the listed publishers include Consortium, Small Press Distributors, AK Press Distribution, and Publishers Group West.

Although missing from the directory are fine Hawai'i-based alternative publishers such as Bamboo Ridge Press, Mutual Publishing, Bess Press, and Watermark Publishing, librarians at public and school libraries will still find many publishers of books for ethnic minority children and young adults listed in Anderson's directory. Other librarians interested in filling gaps not covered by mainstream publishers in their collections will find the directory with its excellent bibliography a useful reference and collection development tool.—Donna M. Maemori, Library and Information Science graduate student, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu

Archives and the Digital Library. Ed. by William E. Landis and Robin L. Chandler. Binghamton, N.Y.: The Haworth Information Press, 2006. 270 p. \$85 (ISBN 978-0789034373).

Archives and the Digital Library is copublished as volume 4, numbers 1–2, 2006, of the *Journal of Archival Organization*. So this book is not a true monograph, but a collection of