

collection on Native American history, this source is highly recommended. For those libraries that already have access to fairly recent reference works on Native Americans, there is little need to purchase this \$395 set. Ultimately, the convoluted organizational method may cause the more impatient researcher to abandon the work for one of the multitude of similar and equally scholarly reference titles on the subject.—Kristi L. Palmer, Assistant Librarian, Liaison to the Departments of History, Women's Studies and American Studies, IUPUI University Library, Indianapolis, Indiana

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**Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature.** By Jennifer McClinton-Temple and Alan Velie. Facts On File Library of American Literature. New York: Facts On File, 2007. \$75 (ISBN 978-0-8160-5656-9).

In 1772, *A Sermon Preached at the Execution of Moses Paul, an Indian* by Samson Occom became the first publication in English of a literary work by an American Indian. Starting with an article on Occom, *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature* offers nearly four hundred essays, signed by academics. The editors, both of whom are professors of English, cover authors commonly read by high school and college students as well as by general readers. Their geography is the forty-eight contiguous states and Alaska, and their criterion for including authors is those “whose works have made a mark on the tradition of Native literature, whether that mark is positive or not” (xi).

Most of the entries in *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature* are about individual works and writers. But there are also thematic entries covering pivotal events, ideas, and movements, such as “Ghost Dance,” “gender,” “government agencies,” “mixed-blood,” and “removal.” These articles contain brief discussions of major titles in which these themes emerge. The titles discussed are drawn from a variety of literary genres, including film. Helpful for exploring ways different authors see similar topics, this guided thematic approach gives to the encyclopedia a distinct feature that differentiates it from other dictionary-type reference titles, surveyed below, on native literature.

Kathy J. Whitson's *Native American Literatures: An Encyclopedia of Works, Characters, Authors, and Themes* (ABC-CLIO, 1999) is a single-authored volume, emphasizing plots, characters, and authors. Although the volume contains a detailed index and cross references, there are no entries about themes that compare titles. Kenneth M. Roemer's *Native American Writers of the United States* (Gale, 1997) offers illustrated essays on native authors selected as characteristic of this literature, while Janet Witalec's *Native North American Literature* (Gale, 1994) reprints criticism. Andrew Wiget's *Dictionary of Native American Literature* (Garland, 1994) emphasizes oral traditions, but its in-depth essays resemble chapters in a monograph, making it more of a handbook, much like Joy Porter's *The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature* (Cambridge, 2005). Beginning with the 1960s, Kay Juricek's *Contemporary Native American Authors:*

*A Biographical Dictionary* (Fulcrum, 1997) collects available facts gleaned from many sources. Finally, numerous bibliographies also assist thematic searching, such as Joan Beam's *The Native American in Long Fiction: An Annotated Bibliography* (Scarecrow, 1996) and its *Supplement, 1995–2002* (Scarecrow, 2003), but these bibliographies don't always offer the convenient arrangement of bibliographic essays for singling out and differentiating titles, as does the *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature*.

As with almost any short encyclopedia, there are topics that would be easier to find if they were made main entries. For instance, to be assured of discovering the names of authors influenced by World War II or the rise of a Native American middle class, one needs to consult both the index and the introduction. Articles for all important topics and comprehensive indexing would help make *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature* handier as a basic guide.

High school, undergraduate, and public libraries serving readers of this evolving literature will want to consider purchasing this work. The brief bibliographies of primary and secondary sources, including some Web sites, contain materials current to 2006. There are also a number of entries discussing authors by genres and regional tribal affiliations. Its currency and effort in providing comparative articles help make this volume useful.—Nevin J. Mayer, Coordinator of Instruction, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio

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**Encyclopedia of American Jewish History.** Ed. by Stephen H. Norwood and Eunice G Pollack. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2007. 2 vols. acid-free \$195 (ISBN 978-1-85109-638-1).

The editors have done a masterful job in compiling this encyclopedia, chronicling the Jewish experience in America from the mid-seventeenth century, when the first Jews arrived in New Amsterdam, into the twenty-first century. Divided into twenty-six chapters, each containing up to twenty-four separate articles, the volumes present information on Jews as both a religious and ethnic group, and on the continuity and change that Judaism experienced in America. Articles deal with what is generally unique about American Jewish life in tandem with such specific areas as voting behavior, politics, and involvement in public affairs. Small settlements are covered alongside urban ones.

Articles are narrative and analytic and address, among other topics, how Jews helped shape and influence American culture, academics, labor movements, social movements on the left and right, the military, the life of women, and journalism. The editors note that the encyclopedia was written for a wide audience, including scholars, students in high school and college, and the general public. “The Encyclopedia brings together in one place multiple perspectives on the American Jewish experience, presented by eminent scholars in a wide range of fields, from the United States, Israel, England, and Canada” (vol. 1, xv).

Each section begins with a general essay on the named topic, “American Jews in Business and Philanthropy,” for

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example. Articles relating to the topic follow, either on subjects (“Southern Jewish Retailers, 1840–2000”) or people (“Julius Rosenwald” and “Jacob H. Schiff”). At the end of each article are references and suggestions for further reading. Many are illustrated.

Complete for the entire two-volume work, the table of contents, preface, maps, and index appear in total in both volumes; the list of contributors is in just the second. Curiously, the maps are European, not American. They depict emigration from Europe, 1881–1910, death and concentration camps in World War II, and the number of Jews murdered in Europe between September 1, 1939, when Poland was invaded by Germany, through May 7, 1945, the date of Germany’s unconditional surrender, which ended the war in Europe.

The Library of Congress catalog lists sixty references under the subject heading “Jews-Encyclopedias”; however, there are few that cover what this encyclopedia does. One is called a ready reference; another is concise; a third is decennial in nature, treating events in Jewish life between 1972 and 1981; others are international in scope; and some were published decades ago and are now out of date. Libraries would do well to add this compilation to their shelves to take advantage of current scholarship and the expertise of the encyclopedia’s writers.—E. Richard McKinstry, *Andrew W. Mellon Senior Librarian, H. F. du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware*

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***Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media.*** Ed. by Jeffrey Jensen Arnett. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2007. 2 vols. alkaline \$325 (ISBN: 1-4129-0530-3).

Because today’s children and adolescents use television, music, and the Internet so extensively, the Kaiser Foundation calls them “Generation M,” for “media.” In recent years, one of the most popular undergraduate research topics has been the effect of the media on young people. Even when students consider other social issues such as gun violence in schools, obesity, or racial profiling, the contribution of the media to these problems typically enters the discussion. Thus library resources that focus on the media capture an important aspect of human life and also serve a key constituency.

Many monographs and journal articles have explored media and youth; even literature reviews and handbooks exist (for instance, see Norma Odom Pecora et. al’s *Children and Television: Fifty Years of Research* [Lawrence Erlbaum, 2007] or Dorothy and Jerome Singer’s *Handbook of Children and the Media* [Sage, 2001]). Yet despite the abundance of sources, Jeffrey Jensen Arnett’s *Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media* makes valuable contributions. As one would expect from Arnett (a developmental psychologist) and Sage Publications, the encyclopedia focuses on psychological and social aspects. But with more than four hundred entries (typically one or two pages in length), the encyclopedia takes a broad look at the topic. Articles cover a variety of media experiences, from images (*of* people), to usage (*by* people), to effects

(*on* people). They also broach the gamut of media types, from books and other print media to instant messaging and virtual reality. The encyclopedia also highlights hot-button issues such as the negative effects of viewing corporate advertising, gender and racial stereotypes, sexuality, and violence. It contains few articles about specific individuals, companies, or products. For example, it provides an article about violence in hip-hop music, but does not offer details about controversial rap groups like N.W.A. or Public Enemy.

In addition to its wide lens, the *Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media* includes other notable features. It contains some cross-cultural entries, not only African American, Latino, and Native American perspectives, but Chinese, European, Indian, and Japanese too. Unlike many resources, the encyclopedia includes basic information on media theories, research methods, advocacy groups, educational efforts, and public policy. Thus it not only concerns media usage and the effects, but also sheds light on efforts to understand and shape them.

Arnett did an excellent job of editing this work, which reflects contributions from hundreds of authors (nearly all academics). In addition to the “Reader’s Guide” at the beginning of the work, many of the articles include in-text citations to research studies, a list of further reading, and “see also” references. Impressive too are the consistent vocabulary and parallelism used in article titles and headings. For instance, it is easy to distinguish pieces dealing with effects from those concerning use. Also, for each major media type (books, computers, music, television) there are articles on the history of the medium; children’s and adolescents’ current usage of the medium; aggression/violence, gender, and sexuality portrayals in the medium; and the effects of using the medium. Thus it should be easy for a student to make comparisons across various media types, or to glean a holistic view of one medium.

In summary, *Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media* is essential for libraries serving undergraduate communications, education, media studies, and human development programs. In addition, it should be valuable for high-school and lower-division college students taking general education courses. The encyclopedia may also be a worthy purchase for libraries that do not own adequate critical or scholarly items about the media. *Bernadette A. Lear, Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, Pennsylvania.*

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***Encyclopedia of Contemporary Russian Culture.*** Ed. by Tatiana Smorodinskaya, Karen Evans-Romaine, and Helena Goscilo. *Encyclopedias of Contemporary Culture.* New York: Routledge, 2007. 800p. \$180 (ISBN 978-0-415-32094-8).

Editors Smorodinskaya, Evans-Romaine, Goscilo, and seven consultant editors have gathered and edited the work of more than 150 contributors, mostly university and college professors and independent scholars primarily from North America, Europe, and Russia, with a sprinkling of journalists