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