for energy resources and enhanced interest in energy issues. This title serves as a basic source for understanding fundamental energy issues and the consequences of energy choices. The first three chapters provide a succinct overview of energy production and use; economic, social and environmental issues associated with energy use; and issues specific to energy use in the United States. The remaining chapters contain an assortment of reference materials including chronologies of energy events; biographical sketches of influential persons in the field; and numerous charts and graphs illustrating energy production and use throughout the world. An extensive annotated list of print and nonprint resources includes books, journals, databases, Web sites, and videos.

Energy Use Worldwide provides a thorough, balanced, and easy-to-understand discussion of energy and the consequences of its use that provides a useful starting point for research by high school and college students. General readers will also find this discussion beneficial for understanding the complex energy issues facing the world today. Although the topic necessitates the use of some technical terminology, the discussion remains accessible through the careful defining of terms in the text as well as in a comprehensive glossary. The annotated directory of organizations and the annotated bibliography are significant assets that provide the reader with numerous avenues for locating additional information and organizations of interest. More than fifty tables and figures supplement the discussion. The usefulness of these illustrations is reduced by their placement in a separate chapter and the absence of referrals in the text, but this drawback is partially overcome by the comprehensive table of contents, index, and lists of tables and figures that increase the ability to find these illustrations as well as the overall usability of the title.

Other reference books covering this topic include Cleveland J. Cutler and Robert U. Ayres’ Encyclopedia of Energy (Academic Press, 2004), a six-volume set that provides comprehensive coverage of the subject, albeit at much greater expense. Sandra Alter’s Energy: Supplies, Sustainability and Costs (Thomson Gale, 2007) provides similar topic coverage in a well-organized and nicely illustrated volume that provides fewer resources for locating additional information. The single-volume format of Energy Use Worldwide is highly usable and provides a solid overview as well as many avenues for further research at a reasonable cost. It is recommended for public, high school, and college libraries, especially where there is an interest in energy and environmental issues.

—Annette M. Healy, Librarian, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

What fashions are popular in New Zealand? What do people in South America watch on TV? How does the custom of marriage differ in different parts of the world? The Greenwood Encyclopedia of World Popular Culture answers these questions and many more within six volumes that cover different geographic areas: North America, Latin America, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia and Pacific Oceania.

Single volumes have been published on popular culture over the years on areas such as America, the Arab world, and Japan, but this current and comprehensive set provides both historical and contemporary information and will be useful to many different people. Students studying their own culture or foreign cultures as well as the curious who want to learn about popular culture and customs in the rest of the world will find it easy to use, informative, entertaining, and invaluable. Furthermore, librarians will be thrilled to point patrons to such a useful and appealing resource when asked for assistance locating information on different cultures.

Each volume contains an introduction written by that specific volume’s editor, followed by in-depth sections by scholars on topics such as art, food, media, sports, toys, travel, and customs such as marriage. Each volume has the same sections, thus eliminating the need for a single index covering all six, but the requisite table of contents and subject indexes are present in each.

One of this encyclopedia’s strengths is the information it provides to readers about additional resources. Each section concludes with an impressive list of print and online resources, and each volume has a general bibliography. It must also be noted that this set is visually appealing. The color covers and the multiple sets of plates with color photographs within each volume are welcome touches that more reference works should have.

At nearly $700, this set will make libraries pause before buying it, but will be worth every penny because it is authoritative and will be heavily used. (Greenwood should consider producing an online version of all their pop culture encyclopedias as well.) In fact, it is such an interesting and readable set that pop culture aficionados would probably buy it for their personal collections if it was cheaper.

The Greenwood Encyclopedia of World Popular Culture would be an excellent addition to any general academic library’s reference collection and would also be appropriate for high schools and public libraries.—Samantha J. Gust, Reference Librarian, Niagara University Library, Niagara University, NY


Edited by Gordon Campbell, Professor of Renaissance Studies at the University of Leicester, this two-volume encyclopedia covers a variety of topics related to classical art and architecture spanning all periods. The more than one thou-