Encyclopedia of White Collar & Corporate Crime (2004), and the Encyclopedia of Interpersonal Violence (2008), available in print or as e-books via Sage Reference online.

At the top of my list of positives about this set is the ability to purchase separate volumes or the complete five-volume set, with the recommendation to shelve them within the circulating collection for greatest use. In addition, the pro–con essays are well written and would be very useful to readers. One drawback I found with this series is that I would’ve liked to know more about the authors of the individual chapters. Though each chapter includes author’s name and institutional affiliation, I would like to know more about the scope of each author’s work and research.—Nancy Frazier, Instructional Services librarian, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania


This unique and concise encyclopedia provides over six hundred entries about the sweeping military and political history of Islam from the seventh century to present day. Edited by Alexander Mikaberidze, a professor at Louisiana State University, Conflict and Conquest in the Islamic World: A Historical Encyclopedia is a focused, two-volume set presenting the collective expertise of over 100 military and political scholars, including the support of the esteemed Bernard Lewis whom the editor describes as the “doyen of Islamic studies.”

Entries cover conflicts, wars, rebellions, battles, weapons, leaders, and other military facets. Most entries are a page to a page and a half in length with some broader topics, such as “Saljuks” or “Algerian War (1954–1962),” running several pages in length. Many of the entries are accompanied by photographs or maps and provide introductory information in basic terminology geared to high school and college students who have little or no knowledge of Islam. A glossary of commonly used Islamic military terms is within easy reach in volume 2. Every entry has a bibliography of further readings that includes mostly book citations which one could use for further research or as a collection development tool. Also included are cross-references that direct the reader to related topics.

The encyclopedia is extensive in its scope, covering Islamic military history spanning several centuries. Geographically, it includes the customary Middle Eastern regions but also Islamic countries in North Africa, Central Asia, Southwestern Asia, and Oceania. In the preface, Mikaberidze describes the encyclopedia as “selective by nature” and explains that its purpose is to feature Muslim military and political leaders and omit Western personalities that are already covered in existing reference materials (xxx). The selections made by the editor offer an extensive overview of Islamic military and political history that is truly unique. It is the only encyclopedia whose sole focus is Islamic history from the military and political perspective. Included in volume 1 is a convenient chronological list of major conflicts and battles fought by or in Islamic nations.

This reference work is unique and topical. Highly recommended for academic, public, and high school libraries. Available electronically.—Colleen Lougen, Electronic Resources Librarian, State University of New York at New Paltz


These volumes cover the expanse of human and physical geography and include biographical as well as topical entries cross referenced with “see also” directives and “further readings” for each listing. Each entry is arranged alphabetically by topic (or last name) and supplemented with full color illustrations liberally used throughout. A full list of entries is included at the beginning of each volume and a reader’s guide is listed in volume 1 with subtopics hierarchically organized under Physical or Human Geography.

The Encyclopedia covers the vast and varied topic of geography from Remote Sensing to Aristotle and Neoliberalism to Stewart Fotheringham. The coverage is broad, and most topics are well represented in several entries as appropriate. For instance, the history of mapping and cartography techniques are discussed at length individually as well as within the GIS related articles. The articles are descriptive, including historical context, but they also identify the key questions in the study of geography, where they are relevant, and their contributions to the field. This is especially true of the entries for individuals who may be associated with other subjects such as Emmanuel Kant. These are great assets in a reference work for beginning researchers or as a reference tools for researchers. A similar title, Companion Encyclopedia of Geography (Routledge, 2007), uses a thematic direction with essays describing various problems or issues on a large scale and then delving into the directions of research. The encyclopedia is a catalog and description of terms, ideas and people making it a preferred title for reference shelves rather than the edited book/text book format of the companion.

Some of the weaknesses of this title are exactly its expansive scope. For undergraduates used to the instant linking of topics in a web environment, they may not have the patience to track down all the related articles within their area of interest through six volumes. As a librarian, I consider the extensive “see also” references a strength, but in print form, they could be cumbersome to a user. In its electronic form, this title might appeal to students who prefer the hyperlink. I also found the “further readings” a little misleading. This was more of a reference list for the article and not a list of recommended readings for more information, and should be labeled as such. Or, it might have been supplemented with additional readings.

I recommend the Encyclopedia of Geography. It is likely
most useful to academic institutions with majors or researchers in the field. For those with limited budgets, it could replace several other encyclopedias focusing on narrower fields and provide a context for topics. In six volumes and for $895 (or $1,120 for the e-book), it is among the more expensive titles for a reference work in Geography. However, it also covers many topics in fuller capacity than others of its kind. For those without related departments and faculty, other smaller titles such as The Dictionary of Physical Geography (Blackwell, 2000) and The Dictionary of Human Geography (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009) could suffice.—Edith A. Scarletto, Subject Librarian for Geography & Geology, Kent State University.


According to the publisher, the goal of this four-volume reference work is to provide “a comprehensive and authoritative overview of the state of sports management and marketing today” (publisher’s publicity flyer). The coeditors, both highly qualified academics with established credentials, also feel that this fairly new academic field needs a work that covers its very wide spectrum and helps legitimize this area as an academic discipline. The 328 authors of the entries are all from colleges and universities; they are listed with their affiliation in volume 1. Full color illustrations are scattered throughout the text.

The 825+ entries are arranged alphabetically and are the meat of the encyclopedia. They range from around one to eight pages. Each United States and Canadian professional team has an entry that goes beyond history and key figures to include brand management, marketing challenges, and ownership. One of the more interesting entries is “Integration of Sport, Globalization, and Commercialization.” The author begins with a general discussion of the terms and then narrows it down to sport. After that, sport, place, and commerce is discussed, then two case studies. One is about the branding of the New Zealand Blacks men’s rugby team and the second about Michael Jordan as representative of the evolving nature of commercialization, globalization, and sport. A further case focuses on challenges facing female athletes. The author concludes the entry with his name and affiliation, five see also references, and seven further reading suggestions which include books, journal articles, and online references.

Sports marketing is addressed in two ways: marketing of sports and sport-related products and the marketing of non-sports products and brands through sports figures or events. The terms and examples in this encyclopedia range from the very broad (Benchmarking) to the less broad (Tort Issues in Sports), to the very specific (Pricing of Parking).

Front contents include a reader’s guide, which groups the entries into 21 broad topics ranging from advertising (29 entries) to team management and marketing (138 entries). Other topics include sponsorship, social marketing, news media, legal, and financing of sports. A sixteen-page alphabetical list of entries appears at the front of each volume. Volume 1 also lists the contributors and their affiliations and a chronology beginning in 1403 when soccer was first played in England and ending on March 3, 2011, with the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the NFL owners and the NFL Players Association. Volume 4 includes an 8-page glossary, a resource guide containing two pages of books, 24 journal titles and 20 Internet listings. Six appendixes contain the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act (SPARTA); the Anabolic Steroid Abuse Act; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendment of 1976; the Uniform Athlete Agents Act (UAAA); and the Madrid Protocol. A comprehensive 91-page index lists items from AAFC to Zvonareva, Vera. Entry titles are in bold type. Photo credits conclude the volumes. Photos are in full color and include such items as team logos, a photo of Pittsburgh Steelers fans and their “terrible towels” (Fan Avidity), and President Obama throwing out the traditional first pitch to the Washington Nationals (Major League Baseball).

The 2009 Outstanding Business Reference Title The Business of Sports (Praeger, 2008) and The Handbook on the Economics of Sport (Elgar, 2006) are this work’s closest peers. Both assume some level of knowledge of business terms and sports industry concepts. The Encyclopedia of Sports Management and Marketing fills a sizeable gap in the discipline’s reference literature by providing a comprehensive treatment of both general business management concepts as well as sports industry and sports business issues. Copious case studies illustrate the scholarly and fascinating text. The illustrations, while nice, are not really necessary, although they add a bit of color to the text. The work could have benefited from a bibliography compiling all the further readings, although there is a basic resource guide.

This work is highly recommended for academic libraries whose institutions have a sports management or kinesiology department or a large athletic program. It is also recommended for large public libraries. Although the price is high and even higher for the e-book version, it is unique and would be of interest to all students, sports practitioners, and other people interested in sports management and marketing.—Carol Krismann, Retired Business Librarian and Natalia Tingle, Business Librarian, University of Colorado, Boulder.


Each of these volumes provides coverage of material