

(XVIII). This welcome addition to encyclopedic reference scholarship has already been awarded the 2010 Dartmouth Award Honorable Mention and a place in RUSA's Outstanding Reference Sources for 2010. Available editions also include an e-book version and inclusion in the Gale Virtual Reference Library database. Pricing for these options is available from the publisher. Highly recommended for any general public or academic reference collection, essential for any library supporting Asian/Chinese studies.—*Jenn B. Stidham, Public Services Librarian, Houston Community College-Northeast, Texas*

Encyclopedia of Organic, Sustainable, and Local Food. Ed. by Leslie A. Durham. Santa Barbara, California: Greenwood, 2010. 462 p. alkaline \$95 (ISBN 978-0-313-35963-7). E-book available.

There is certainly no shortage of articles, books, and other information on the organic food movement. While the concept of organic and local food has been around for many years, it seems to have exploded in the general consciousness with the publication of Michael Pollan's *Omnivore's Dilemma* (Penguin, 2006), Alice Waters's Edible Schoolyard program, the rise of community-supported agriculture, and the proliferation of organic food products in the market. This one volume encyclopedia introduces broad and basic concepts about organic, sustainable and local food to the general reader. The question is whether such an encyclopedia serves a purpose since information on these topics is so readily available elsewhere.

Editor Leslie Durham is a professor and chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Resources at Southern Illinois University and has authored a previous book on the organic movement, *Good Growing: Why Organic Farming Works* (University of Nebraska Press, 2005). She has put together this encyclopedia, containing approximately 140 entries from more than sixty contributors.

The volume starts out with a chronology of food related events in the United States, beginning in 1862 with the creation of the USDA and ending in 2009 with the creation of the White House vegetable garden. In between, we find out that Rudolph Steiner published *Agriculture* in 1924 in which he describes the basics of biodynamic farming; in 1940, the word "organic" is used for the first time to describe a dynamic, holistic, sustainable agricultural system; *Silent Spring* is published in 1962; community-supported agriculture is brought to the United States in 1984 from Switzerland; and in 1999, Restaurant Nora in Washington, D.C. becomes one of the nation's first certified organic restaurants.

Instead of a table of contents, there is a list of entries but no page numbers are included. There is also a topical list of entries that includes such topics as "Activism, Movements and Community," "Agriculture; Animals, Fish and Seafood," "Education," "Environment," "Food," "Health," and "Sustainability."

The articles are arranged alphabetically and range in length from a few paragraphs to several pages. All articles are signed and end with a listing of further readings. The listing

of readings includes articles, books, and websites. There are "see also" references. For example, under "Local Food," the "see also" includes "Agriculture, Alternative," "Community-Sported Agriculture," "Family Farms," "Farmers Markets," "and "Slow Food." The articles are very interesting and informative and provide clear overviews of such broad topics as agricultural subsidies, heirloom seeds, free trade, natural food, slow food, and water quality.

An extensive index is included at the end of the volume. There are four appendixes. Appendix 1 contains the Report and Recommendations on Organic Farming, 1980; appendix 2 has the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990; appendix 3 lists the report U.S. Organic Farming Emerges in the 1990's: Adoption of Certified Systems, 2001; and appendix 4 has a USDA document, Recent Growth Patterns in the U.S. Organic Foods Market, 2002. The back of the volume also contains a selected bibliography as well as information about the contributors.

Perhaps because there is such a wealth of information to wade through on these topics, this source would be a very convenient starting point for a beginner reader on the subject. Recommended for high school, public, and undergraduate library collections.—*Stacey Marien, Budget and Finance Manager, Information Delivery Services, American University, Washington, D.C.*

Encyclopedia of Perception. Ed. by E. Bruce Goldstein. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage, 2010. 2 vols. acid free \$375 (ISBN 978-1-4129-4081-8). E-book available (ISBN 978-1-4129-7200-0), \$465.

Encyclopedia of Perception, edited by E. Bruce Goldstein of University of Pittsburgh (Emeriti) and University of Arizona, is the first encyclopedia dedicated to perception. Goldstein is an excellent choice as editor, and his experience as both a textbook author and professor are evident in this readable and comprehensive encyclopedia. The list of contributors contains notable international figures in academia and institutional research, with the advisory board featuring more than two dozen scholars representing a variety of universities and institutes.

The editor's goals for the encyclopedia are to provide a reference work on perception that provides: "1) broad coverage, 2) authoritative entries, and 3) entries that are accessible to a general audience" (xxviii). The encyclopedia achieves all three goals and manages to be readable for a general audience and useful to an expert as well as provide a comprehensive overview of topics. In many cases, to connect with multiple audiences, there is repetition of ideas in which concepts are first explained using advanced terminology and in-depth descriptions and then restated in more general terms. Although this may seem redundant, it is one of the many strengths of this encyclopedia. Many of the entries read much like a well crafted lesson that first demonstrates the complexity of a concept and then illustrates how to understand the content. It is expected that a reference work on perception would have a

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strong visual component, and *Encyclopedia of Perception* delivers, providing 180 figures and tables, 39 of which are in color. However, the color figures are provided at the front of each volume and may have been more useful if placed with corresponding entries. Entries on visual perception always have illustrative figures when appropriate, allowing the reader to experience the concepts or phenomena.

There are two types of entries: general overviews, which are roughly 15–20 pages long, and brief entries, ranging from 1–2 pages long. Overview entries cover general areas such as audition, consciousness, olfaction, taste, and vision. These overviews are readable and useful and provide good subheadings such as cognitive influence, development, disorders, etc. Brief entries generally provide a description of the issue as it relates to perception, a history of the issue, areas of research, theories, and methodologies. All entries are signed, have a current list of references, and provide cross-references.

In addition to expected entries such as “Attention,” there are entertainingly thorough entries on areas that may be of general interest such as “Phantom Limbs,” “Pheromones,” and “Tool Use,” which reveal how integrated perception is in human experience. Although this reference work would best be categorized under the broad subject of psychology, there are many entries such as “Aesthetic Appreciation of Pictures,” “Cell Phones and Driver Distraction,” “Typography,” and “Word Recognition” that would help with a variety of other fields of study.

Encyclopedia of Perception fills a gap as no comprehensive encyclopedias on perception exist. *The Blackwell Handbook of Perception* (Blackwell, 2001), edited by E. Bruce Goldstein is the most recent handbook on perception, and this single volume work is not as comprehensive, written for a more advanced audience, and by necessity takes a restricted approach to perception, covering only the senses. *Encyclopedia of Perception* provides the first reference work on perception written for a general audience, and it is the first work to be printed after computer use has become pervasive. This gap in the reference literature is surprising as most psychology departments offer courses on perception, and perception is a common topic in other psychology courses. Libraries with related psychology encyclopedias will find the *Encyclopedia of Perception* useful for both the depth and breadth that its 376 entries provide. General psychology encyclopedias do not cover as many perception related concepts and only briefly cover other ideas such as “Attention” or “Virtual Reality.” *Encyclopedia of Perception* is a necessary addition to both perception and psychology reference collections. Highly recommended for college libraries.—Shannon Pritting, *Reference and Special Instruction Librarian, SUNY, Oswego*

Encyclopedia of Sustainability. By Robin Morris Collin and Robert W. Collin. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2010. 3 vols. alkaline \$265 (ISBN 978-0-313-35261-4). E-book available (ISBN 978-0-313-35262-1), call for pricing.

Sustainability is a popular and widely invoked cross-disciplinary buzzword. However, reference works focused

specifically on the broad topic of sustainability—as opposed to related topics like the environment or narrower topics like sustainable energy—have not been published until recently. The *Encyclopedia of Sustainability* exists at “the triangulation of the so-called three ‘E’s—environment, economics, and equity” which “distinguishes sustainability as a philosophy different from that of conservationism or environmentalism” (xii). It aims to explore the meaning of sustainability in each of these contexts, providing an introductory gateway to content, both theoretical and applied.

The *Encyclopedia of Sustainability* is composed of three volumes, one for each “E”: Environment and Ecology, Business and Economics, and Equity and Fairness. Each volume is organized into five chapters: “Overview,” “Definitions and Contexts,” “Government and United Nations Involvement,” “Controversies,” and “Future Directions and Emerging Trends.” Each volume also contains multiple appendixes, including a list of “Portal Web Sites” and various primary documents like the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and The Earth Charter. Though the encyclopedia is not organized alphabetically, each volume contains an alphabetic guide to related topics immediately after the table of contents. Each volume also contains a bibliography and a cumulative index.

The choice to organize the title thematically is ambitious, if not entirely successful. Each volume reads almost like a monograph or textbook on the associated theme, excepting the “see also” references and cumulative indices. Issues that concern multiple themes, like ecotourism, appear in all relevant volumes. However this choice results in the duplication of content: for instance, the twelve-page entry on “Capitalism and Sustainability” is found verbatim in two of the volumes. It has also led to some misleading errors: the same content is found under the heading “Market-Based Strategies, Equity, and Sustainability” (without cited references) in one volume and “Market-Based Solutions to Environmental Degradation” (with references) in another volume.

Additionally, some of the content seems haphazardly placed, such as the sub-section on “Urban Agriculture” being placed under the “Collaborative Decision-Making Processes” section, as opposed to the “Agriculture” section. Though each volume contains a comprehensive bibliography, references at the article level are used intermittently, with some articles (notably many of those highlighted by special boxes) acknowledging no sources or only referring to sources through in-text citations. Additionally, the visual cues that differentiate sections and sub-sections within chapters are poorly implemented, leaving the reader confused as to the context of the information, context being especially important in a work organized by theme, where a reader is liable to encounter similarly titled sections in different volumes.

Design issues aside, the *Encyclopedia of Sustainability* is accessible and well-written. Each thematic volume contains enough information for the layperson or entry-level undergraduate student to grasp the fundamental issues and terms, get familiar with important names, both individual and institutional, and discover sources for further research. The black