

SOURCES

Encyclopedia of Global Warming. Ed. by Steven I. Dutch. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2010. 3 vols. alkaline \$398 (ISBN 978-1-58765-563-0). Online access available free until 12/31/2011 in Salem Science.

Salem's *Encyclopedia of Global Warming* pulls together data and information from many disciplines to provide high school and undergraduate students a great resource for learning about climate change. Articles cover climate, weather, energy production, energy use, and alternative energy models. Policy issues, treaties, and organizations are treated in depth. Each region and many countries have articles describing their carbon use and production, policies, treaty status, and unique climate challenges.

The usual subject index and glossary are provided. Volume 1 includes two useful lists: "Abbreviations and Acronyms" and "Common Units of Measure." Volume 3 has several appendixes. These include a timeline, a biographical dictionary, a general bibliography (to supplement the readings listed in each entry), and a list of popular culture fictional books and movies about global warming. Online access accompanies purchase of the print volumes. The Salem Science database includes the *Encyclopedia of Global Warming*.

With global warming and climate change joining the list of popular paper topics, several reference works on the topic have appeared. The title I consider most similar in scope and audience is Sage's *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change* (Philander, 2008). Both are good encyclopedias; the Sage title won a Best Reference nod from *Library Journal* in 2008.

Encyclopedia of Global Warming is a good starting point for students because it pulls together all the different facets of the issue. If your print reference collection is still being used, then you should purchase this work. If currency is important to your students you should consider purchasing this even if you own *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change*. They are two years apart.

Please be aware that both print and online versions of *Encyclopedia of Global Warming* have a five year revision cycle (http://salempress.com/store/pages/salem_science.htm, retrieved 4/26/2010). I consider that a point against the online version. Its ability to provide information about all aspects of global warming still makes it an excellent place to start a research paper.—Robin N Sinn, *Librarian for Science and Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland*

Encyclopedia of Modern China. Ed. by David Pong. Detroit: Gale, 2010. 4 vols. alkaline \$520 (ISBN 978-0-684-31566-9). E-book available (ISBN 978-0-684-31571-3), call for pricing.

David Pong, professor of history and past director of the East Asian Studies Program at the University of Delaware and 2009 Fulbright Scholar, outlines the scope for the twenty-five hundred page, 936 entry *Encyclopedia of Modern China* as "a collection of entries on topics that span the spectrum of China's history, culture, and society from 1800 to the present"

(XVIII). An ambitious undertaking that brings together an impressive international field of nearly five hundred scholars, emphasis is placed on a wide range of topical ("Cultural Revolution," "Domestic Trade," "Interpreters of Things Chinese to the West") and thematic studies ("Education," "Family," "Labor"), with only the most prominent individuals afforded biographical entries ("Pearl S. Buck," "Mao Zedong"). Arranged alphabetically, the individually authored entries range from several paragraphs to forty-plus pages and are often accompanied by tables and expository sidebars, color images, maps, bibliographies, and cross-references. Other user aids include the first volume's "Thematic Outline" section, a listing of "Major Chronological Periods," and a timeline that parallels Chinese and world historical events from 1800 to 2009. Volume four contains an impressive compilation of more than 120 pages of primary source documents, a glossary of Chinese characters, an annotated bibliography, and concluding index.

Reading level varies with author, but most users beginning at the secondary level will find utility here. Student research projects involving almost any aspect of post-1800 Chinese history or culture will be supported, as will those readers seeking general overviews of broader social topics or more basic understanding of China's current economic or political situation and challenges. Controversial topics are well covered, including entries titled "Poverty," "Dissidents," "Sex Ratio," "Minority Nationalities," and "Taiwan, Republic of China." External diplomatic and economic relations with world regions ("Southeast Asian States, Relations With") and specific countries ("United States- Relations With") are included.

Comparable works are scarce. Comprehensive, historical (pre-1800) reference coverage of China may be satisfied by the excellent *Berkshire Encyclopedia of China* (Berkshire, 2009) and to a lesser degree by *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of China* (Cambridge, 1991) or *Brill's Encyclopedia of China* (Brill, 2009). Less expensive options for modern coverage after 1840 include *Modern China: An Encyclopedia of History, Culture, and Nationalism* (Taylor and Francis, 1997), post-1949 by *The Cambridge Handbook of Contemporary China* (Cambridge, 1991), or *China Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the People's Republic* (Greenwood, 2005). The reference work with perhaps the most narrow contemporary temporal emphasis is the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Chinese Culture* (Routledge, 2005), which focuses upon post-1979 events and includes Hong Kong and Taiwan in its examination of cultural topics. The most cost-conscious public institutions may want to attempt to locate Graham Hutchings's out-of-print, but still available, *Modern China: A Guide to a Century of Change* (Harvard, 2001) for a more interpretive resource. In comparison to all of these, however, this new work really does stand alone and apart.

David Pong's editorial leadership has produced a work that reaches beyond the boundary of many reference endeavors that merely summarize or compile and notes "that new research was being introduced in the entries" due to the generosity of contributors with their unpublished works

(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