

## SOURCES

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*

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***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

and white images, while sparse, are illustrative and sometimes quite clarifying and useful.

Comparable works include Atkinson's *Handbook of Sustainable Development* (Edward Elgar, 2007), composed of more academic and densely written topical essays, and Jenkins's *Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability* (Berkshire, 2009–11), whose first volume, the *Spirit of Sustainability*, focuses on moral and religious aspects. It is presumed that the Berkshire work, planned for ten volumes, will be more expansive and thorough in its coverage; however volumes two through ten still remain to be published. While much of the information can also be found in a variety of environment-oriented reference sources, such as Paul Robbin's *Encyclopedia of Environment and Society* (Sage, 2007), the *Encyclopedia of Sustainability* is the first title to bring together a variety of topics under the unifying theme of sustainability, and it would make a good addition to all undergraduate academic libraries and larger public libraries with strong collections in this area.—Lori Townsend, *Electronic Collections Librarian, California State University, East Bay, Hayward, California*

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***Encyclopedia of Urban Studies.*** Ed. by Ray Hutchison. Los Angeles: Sage, 2010. 2 vols. acid free \$295 (ISBN 978-1-4129-1432-1). E-book available (ISBN 978-1-4129-7197-3), \$405.

The field of urban studies, which encompasses a wide range of disciplines and perspectives, has often defied attempts to treat its all-inclusive analysis of the urban experience in a systematic way. The two-volume *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies*, edited by urban sociologist Ray Hutchison of the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, succeeds in capturing the breadth and complexity of these multiple strands within an accessible, well-indexed, and amply referenced format.

The work is composed of nearly 350 entries, with content ranging from essays on broad urban issues such as crime, gentrification, and homelessness, to examinations of urban spaces, individual cities, major theories such as urban ecology, and key scholars, including Henri Lefebvre and Edward W. Soja. Entries run from three to five dual-column pages, and include descriptive headings and subheadings when appropriate. One of the true strengths of this work is in the many features that facilitate the exploration of a vast and sometimes daunting interdisciplinary terrain. Every entry concludes with a series of extremely useful “see also” entries, as well as a brief, but highly relevant bibliography of further readings. In addition to an alphabetical listing of entries, the first volume includes a five-page reader's guide, which accomplishes the extraordinary feat of organizing key entries according to both specific urban disciplines and interdisciplinary urban topics. At a glance, readers wishing to consider a particular discipline or professional field, including urban economics, geography, history, politics, and sociology, will find a grouping of between ten to twenty suggested entries to explore. Interdisciplinary topics include “Urban Issues,” “Urban Theory,” “Urban Culture,” as well as “Persons,” “Places,” and “Historical Overviews.” Lastly, the entire work includes a strong index to aid accessibility. In

sum, these features all work together to make the connections between the disparate urban disciplines more apparent, and to provide a sense of the cross-pollination and ongoing dialogue always at play within urban studies.

Few reference works have attempted an encyclopedic treatment of urban studies. The closest analog, the single volume *Encyclopedia of the City* (Routledge, 2005) also embraces multiple urban disciplines, with entries focusing on urban issues, theories, and people but due to length restrictions, is simply unable to offer the same level of detail or scope. *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies* has the space not only to ground readers in essential topics but to offer up many pleasant surprises, particularly in the form of significant cultural entries, such as “Skateboarding,” “Hip-Hop,” “SimCity,” and “Creative Class.” A further strength of *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies* is Hutchison's stated goal of creating a work that is truly international in scope. This goal is met by the inclusion of individual entries on the urban experience in dozens of cities, including Damascus, Hong Kong, Lagos, Mumbai, and São Paulo. Even more significantly, entries on major urban phenomena often include some discussion of the issue in a global context or consider the international scholarship. For example, the entry on “Gentrification” considers the cases of Australia, Canada, and England, as well as the urban United States.

Other works have served as useful starting places for undergraduates, but have typically focused on brief selections of essays intended to frame broader issues. The most recent of these works, M. Gottdiener and Leslie Budd's slim volume, *Key Concepts in Urban Studies* (Sage, 2005), remains a highly accessible and fairly current selection of forty essays centered on urban issues and theories. This work serves a different purpose, however, and might be more suitable as a course supplement, a role encouraged by Gottdiener and Budd in their introduction (v).

*Encyclopedia of Urban Studies* is the first truly comprehensive encyclopedic treatment of urban studies from an international and interdisciplinary perspective. It is highly recommended for academic libraries and large public libraries.—David W. Wilson, *Information Literacy Librarian, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas*

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***Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History.*** Ed. by Andrew W. Robertson, Michael A. Morrison, William G. Shade, Robert D. Zieger, Thomas S. Langston, and Richard M. Valelly. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2010. 7 vols. alkaline \$995 (ISBN 978-0-87289-320-7).

This encyclopedia is a comprehensive and in-depth reference source on American political history covering the period from 1500 to 2009. It offers clearly written, analytical essays that focus on major institutions, themes, issues, movements, elections, presidents, and other key political players. Each volume contains 100 to 110 alphabetically arranged topical essays relevant to volumes defined by major events, issues, or eras in American history. There are essay themes that appear in more than one volume, such as slavery, Congress, religion, American