

“Screening and Diagnosis,” “Treatment and Therapy,” and “Prevention and Outcomes.” The other essays all begin with a statement of significance, a list of key terms and their definitions, and also feature subheadings to guide readers. This encyclopedia has approximately two hundred black-and-white photographs with additional sidebars, tables, charts, and drawings. Its scope reaches the key social and ethical questions “ranging from cloning to stem cells to genetically modified foods and organisms” (ix). Online access, for unlimited users at every branch or school at your institution, is included with the purchase of print. This makes purchasing *Salem Health: Genetics and Inherited Diseases* very cost-effective.

I compared this encyclopedia set to two similar sources. The first is James Wynbrandt and Mark D. Ludman’s *The Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders and Birth Defects* (Facts on File, 2008). This is also an A–Z encyclopedia, but the entries are very concise. The entries are also not divided into sections, which makes finding information more difficult. *Salem Health: Genetics and Inherited Conditions* provides more detailed information that is more accessible. I also looked at Brigham Narins’ *The Gale Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders* (Thomson Gale, c. 2005). This alphabetically arranged encyclopedia goes into greater detail than *Salem Health: Genetic Disorders and Inherited Diseases*. The entries are divided into sections, and it lists key terms more prominently. *The Gale Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders and Birth Defects* also contains color photographs, whereas *Salem Health* only contains black-and-white photographs. The only thing the Thomson Gale encyclopedia lacks in comparison to the Salem Press encyclopedia is that it does not go into the history and science behind the field of genetics. Both of the sources I looked to for comparison were also written for nonspecialists with the same target audience as *Salem Health: Genetics and Inherited Conditions*.

The audience for *Salem Health: Genetics and Inherited Conditions* is biology and premedical students, public library patrons interested in consumer health, and librarians building specific collections. It provides authoritative information on genetics and genetic diseases in an easy to understand language and format. Of the three sources I looked at for this review, I would recommend the featured title. While the entries are slightly shorter than *The Gale Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders*, Salem’s work contains more updated information, a history of genetics along with the science behind the field, and online content.—Mina Chercourt, Unit Leader, Database Maintenance, Grasselli Library and Breen Learning Center, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio

Truman Capote Encyclopedia. By Robert L. Gale. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2010. 279 pages. Alkaline \$75 (ISBN: 978-0-786-44296-6).

For the Capote connoisseur, this encyclopedia offers a treasure trove of details about Truman Capote’s life and works. Author Robert Gale aims to enhance readers’ enjoyment of Capote, whom he describes as a “protean puzzle” (1). Gale

credits biographers Robert Stanton, Gerald Clarke, Deborah Davis, and George Plimpton for their insights.

There are numerous biographical and critical sources about Capote and his works, including many online reference tools (e.g., Literature Criticism Online, Literature Online LION, Biography Resource Center, as well as other encyclopedias). This 279-page encyclopedia should be especially savored by Capote devotees—those who want to learn more about the man, his immense talent, his innate ability to observe and dissect the human condition, his larger-than-life personality and circle of famous friends, and his impressive body of work. It’s an alphabetically arranged voyeuristic romp of sorts, where readers may feel as if they’re privy to juicy tidbits of gossip. The encyclopedia includes entries for Capote’s characters, even the most obscure, as well as his friends and family members, particularly those who influenced his life and work. Robert Gale’s book provides summaries of all of Truman Capote’s works, with chapter-by-chapter synopses of his novels, as well as descriptions of his short stories and nonfiction prose. Short story and essay entries list characters and identify books containing reprints of the works.

The Capote aficionado will experience hours of enjoyment by thumbing through the *Truman Capote Encyclopedia*. Take the entry, “Truman Capote by Truman Capote,” for example—“When God presents you with a gift, it is accompanied by a whip for flagellating yourself” (242). Those less familiar with Capote and his works are sure to learn more about the enigmatic writer. Readers will find a mix of lengthy and brief entries, as well as a chronology and bibliographic citations. Though the volume does not include photographs, Gale advises that “readers who miss photographs . . . may find an amplitude in other but not better books devoted to Capote, especially those by Gerald Clarke, Deborah Davis, and George Plimpton, and in Richard Avedon’s *Observations*” (2).

This volume offers a wealth of information about Capote and his work, of interest to both casual readers and Capote scholars. If purchasing this volume, shelve it in a circulating collection for greatest use and enjoyment.—Nancy Frazier, Instructional Services Librarian, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

Professional Materials

Karen Antell

Editor

Assessing Service Quality: Satisfying the Expectations of Library Customers. 2nd ed. By Peter Hernon and Ellen Altman. Chicago: ALA, 2010. 224 pages. Paper \$65 (ISBN: 978-0-838-91021-4).

Assessing Service Quality is an admirable blend of theoretical, statistical, and pragmatic assessment applications for academic and public libraries. Providing several methods to address library services and patron concerns, this is a primer