SOURCES

reader with a beneficial select bibliography in the second volume. However, a more useful approach would have been to also include relevant sources at the end of each or nearly all entries.

This encyclopedia does provide the reader with sound information on the military and political happenings of World War II. A well-researched reference work, it would certainly be useful for the casual seeker of World War II military information. However, as a reference work for a research starting point, this publication contains several deficiencies that render its usefulness less than desirable. With the omission of suggested readings for most entries, this work is not useful for readers wishing to further explore a given topic.

Reference works on World War II abound, and a recent comparable work, the *Encyclopedia of World War II, 2-Volume Set* by Alan Axelrod (Facts on File, 2007) serves as a good alternative and includes suggested readings for most entries. Spencer Tucker's five-volume set, *Encyclopedia of World War II: A Political, Social, and Military History* (ABC-Clio, 2005), continues to be the standard for World War II encyclopedias and, although more expensive, remains a better value. Although Nolan's accessible set includes military information that may otherwise be difficult to find, the dearth of suggested readings makes *The Concise Encyclopedia of World War II* best suited for high schools or medium-size public libraries.—*Joseph A. Hurley, Data Services Librarian, Georgia State University Library, Atlanta, Georgia*

Encyclopedia of American Immigration. Edited by Carl L. Bankston III. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2010. 3 vols. Alkaline $395 (ISBN: 978-1-58765-599-9). Online access included with purchase of print.

This collection is aimed at high school and undergraduate students seeking context on issues relating to immigration, both historical and contemporary. The stated goal in the introduction is "to answer all the questions about immigration in American history that students are likely to ask" (ix). Each essay begins with a brief definition, a date (when appropriate), and a statement of significance before the topic is discussed in detail. This format is helpful for students who want to quickly determine the "what, when, and why" before deciding whether to read further.

The 525 entries are concise (ranging from three hundred to three thousand words), easily comprehensible, and largely jargon-free. About one-third provide overviews of broad subjects such as "Art," "Labor," or "Television." These topical essays highlight immigrants' experiences and contributions within these fields. There is also treatment of specific national groups (Cambodians, Italians, Haitians, etc.), histories of U.S. states, and discussions of significant laws, treaties, and court cases. In choice of content, the volumes under review are hardly groundbreaking: many of the same topics appear in *Immigration in U.S. History*, also edited by Bankston (Salem, 2006). The present work is both more up-to-date and better written. The writing style reflects the goal of anticipating and

answering questions. The authors have done an admirable job distilling complex topics so as to make them readily understandable. Every essay concludes with a selective bibliography for students who wish to explore the topic further. Useful appendixes include an annotated list of U.S. Supreme Court rulings, a chronology of federal laws on immigration up to 2009, and descriptions of federal government agencies concerned with immigration.

Salem Press is offering purchasers of the print set free access to the online version through December 31, 2011. Libraries that purchase the print and wish to use the online can do so via IP authentication, a referring URL, or username/password access. Access outside the library can be granted with a remote access password. After 2011, there is a $100 annual hosting fee that is waived for libraries that purchase a new title in the Salem History collection. Additional details about Salem Online is found at http://salempress.com/Store/pages/salem_online.htm.

The online version includes all the content of the print, with the obvious advantage of full-text searching. The topical categories from the print index are reproduced allowing users to scan for essays grouped under broad headings (Court Cases, Health, Economics, or Politics, for example). The helpful appendixes and indexes are included and the cross-references are conveniently hyperlinked.

While no single work can possibly answer all questions about immigration, the editors have succeeded in compiling a collection that meets student needs. The inclusion of online access increases the appeal to students who may be reluctant to consult print reference works.—*Eric Novotny, Humanities Librarian, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania*

The Encyclopedia of Christian Literature. Edited by George Thomas Kurian. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2010. 2 vols. Alkaline $180 (ISBN: 978-2-810-86987-5). E-book available (978–0-810-87283-7), call for pricing.

The Encyclopedia of Christian Literature seeks to "identify the canon of Christian literature, the core books that have fertilized, irrigated, and nurtured the Christian mind over the centuries" (xv). Unlike other collections of Christian writers that serve as collection development or readers' advisory tools, this two-volume set focuses on the authors and texts in Christian literature's staggering scope that the editors deem essential. The work seeks to "call attention to historic texts of quality and influence, the ideas and lives of those instrumental in their creation, and those who in practice and print have embraced this legacy as a gift" (xi). Because Christian literature is so vast, and there are no other reference sources that specifically address Christian literature in this manner, the *Encyclopedia of Christian Literature* is a worthy addition to the world of reference.

Volume 1 contains essays on genres and types of Christian literature, arranged alphabetically—"Apocalyptic" through "Women's literature"—as well as the first half (A–G) of the