

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-Clío, 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. Hurlley, *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

more than four hundred biographical essays on Christian writers. Each genre essay attempts to summarize a major facet of Christian literature and contains notes and a bibliography. Those working in libraries in theological schools or seminaries may not need a glossary to navigate the entries, but a general reference librarian assisting a patron may have to consult an outside source, such as *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (Oxford, 1997) for further edification on some of the concepts.

The biographies fare better for the general reader, and each includes a biography with emphasis on its subject's religious history and education, along with a bibliography of works by and about the subject. Volume 2 comprises the rest of the biographies (H–Z).

Separating the genres and the biographies proves to be a bit awkward for the user, and as previously mentioned, a glossary—not unusual for this type of reference work—would further assist the user. Despite issues with organization, this title is recommended for academic libraries, especially those that support religious studies curricula.—*Tracy Carr Seabold, Reference Services Director, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Mississippi*

Encyclopedia of Comic Books and Graphic Novels. Edited by M. Keith Booker. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2010. 2 vols. Acid-free \$180 (ISBN: 978-0-313-35746-6). E-book available (ISBN: 978-0-313-35747-3), call for pricing.

Encyclopedia of Comic Books and Graphic Novels is an extremely valuable resource filled with informative and engaging articles dealing with virtually every aspect of the art and industry of comic books and graphic novels. Here the reader will find information on individual characters, titles, creators, genres, and publishers. This resource, of course, includes histories of well-known superheroes such as Superman, Batman, and Spiderman, but also delves into the lesser-known worlds of underground comics and contemporary “alternative” comics such as *Ghost World* and *Blankets*. Entries discussing the lives and works of comic book creators range from notable superhero artists such as George Pérez and John Byrne to pioneers of the underground scene such as Robert Crumb and luminaries of modern literary comics such as Chris Ware and Daniel Clowes. This encyclopedia covers comics and graphic novels from the golden age (which began with the debut of Superman in 1938) to the present day. Though the emphasis is on American comics, European comics and Manga are also discussed.

This reviewer was impressed by not only the broad scope of this encyclopedia, but also by the thorough and insightful nature of the entries. In entries dealing with individual books, the authors go beyond plot summaries to offer concise critical analysis and reflections on the book's influence. Entries are arranged alphabetically. An index and a section of selected general resources are included. A selected bibliography is included for some entries.

The Superhero Book, edited by Gina Misiroglu (Visible Ink,

2004) offers comparable information on superhero characters, but is much narrower in scope than *Encyclopedia of Comic Books and Graphic Novels*, which does not limit itself to the superhero genre. Libraries seeking resources devoted more to detailed discussions of creators and their works may also wish to purchase *Graphic Novelists*, by Tom Pendergrast and Sara Pendergrast (Thomson Gale, 2007).

Encyclopedia of Comic Books and Graphic Novels is a welcome addition to the growing body of comics scholarship. It is recommended for both academic and public libraries.—*Edward Whatley, Instruction and Reference Librarian, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, Georgia*

Encyclopedia of Depression. By Linda Wasmer Andrews. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2010. 2 vols. Acid-free \$165 (ISBN: 978-0-313-35366-6). E-book available (978-0-313-35367-3), call for pricing.

Wasmer Andrew's *Encyclopedia of Depression* has set out to provide a comprehensive overview to the multifaceted condition that is depression. The encyclopedia's objective has clearly been met and surpassed. This two-volume work, which is also available as an e-book, has the traditional components of an encyclopedia, including an alphabetical list of entries and a detailed index; however, it offers a great deal more. Unlike similar works such as Roberta Roesch's *Encyclopedia of Depression* (Facts on File, 2001), Andrew's work offers the reader a wealth of additional features that provide other paths to a better understanding of depression. The quick reference guide at the beginning of each volume provides a detailed outline of the various topics related to depression. This tool allows the reader to see how the various topics are interconnected and acts as a guide to further research. The topical guide highlights some of the additional issues related to depression, such as diet and nutrition, experimental treatments, and famous people diagnosed with depression. The depression timeline is a historical break down of depression: from when it was first identified as a health issue through various discoveries and cultural events related to depression. These additional features are complemented by a further reading list and a list of various organizations, which range from support groups to treatment resources.

The *Encyclopedia of Depression* is comprehensive. Three hundred entries cover a variety of topics related to depression. Topics range from available treatment options, to biographical sketches of physician pioneers in the field, to details of the various types of mental disorders related to depression. The entry topics cover the lifespan: from “Anaclitic Depression” found in infants to the “Geriatric Depression Scale” used to assess depression levels in senior citizens. Cultural, ethnic, and social factors are also discussed. The entries vary in length and all include a bibliography. Cross-references, “see also” references, and charts are provided when available. The charts are invaluable when coupled with entries that cover complex topics. Examples include “What's a Mental Disorder,” which covers the similarities and differences of various mental health