

SOURCES

tions. Whether it goes in the reference or circulating collection, though, this very well-done book would be welcome in any library.—*John Maxymuk, Reference Librarian, Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey*

Literary Research and the American Modernist Era: Strategies and Sources. By Robert N. Matuozzi and Elizabeth B. Lindsay. *Literary Research: Strategies and Sources.* Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2008. 192p. alkaline \$45 paper (ISBN 978-0-8108-6116-9).

The third title in Scarecrow's series on literary research, this guide to American Modernist writers (including William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Langston Hughes, Edith Wharton, and Willa Cather, among many others) was written by librarians at Washington State University. The authors define Modernism as "an international artistic phenomenon that gathered force in the early part of the twentieth century" (101). The book is intended to provide "a clear introduction to the best contemporary library resources and practices" for researching in this area, and the authors hope that it will "enable users to improve their information skills and fluency" (x). They frequently encourage readers to ask for assistance from a librarian.

Each title in this series follows a standardized, methodic format specific to the era being researched. Chapters include basics of online catalog searching, use of standard print and electronic bibliographies (such as Modern Language Association's International Bibliography database, MLAIB), locating articles in scholarly journals as well as newspapers, tracking down archives, judicious use of Web resources, and a difficult (or "thorny") research question. Most chapters close with bibliographic references. The appendix lists selected resources in related disciplines, and there is an index.

The work of Nella Larsen, the Danish–West Indian writer of the Harlem Renaissance, is the example used to research the thorny problem in this volume. The authors use this opportunity to highlight the online availability of African American newspapers. Current researchers have alluded to the possibility of Larsen being lesbian or bisexual because of perceived, though covert, same-sex references in her writing, but this possible factor is not mentioned, and the opportunity to introduce seriously researched gay and lesbian sources—such as *The Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage: A Reader's Companion to the Writers and Their Works, From Antiquity to the Present*, ed. Claude J. Summers (Holt, 1995; Routledge, rev. ed., 2002)—was lost. The authors do advise their readers that to stay current on "the development of issues or the critical reception of authors," they should "periodically review the scholarly journals in [the] field," (79–80) but they do not mention the fact that many databases allow users to set up free e-mailed tables of contents or other automated alerts.

Though some readers may be puzzled by the necessity in the opening chapters for screen shots of MARC records, others may enjoy decoding the secret language of catalogs. Screen shots of the Washington State University Library catalog (from Innovative Interfaces) are also provided, and the

pros and cons of keyword searching versus subject searching in online catalogs are explored, touching on synonyms and the consideration of having to use culturally insensitive terms to find material from early years.

This book (and others in this series) is putting up a valiant battle against Google Scholar. Certainly, an advanced Google (or Google Scholar) search can be remarkably useful, but students should always be steered toward the sources that the authors encourage, such as James Harner's *Literary Research Guide: An Annotated Listing of Reference Sources in English Literary Studies* (5th ed., Modern Language Association, 2008).

There is no end of quality academic websites that instruct students on sources of literary modernism. There are many guides to Modernism (in literature, art, and music) but they often are anthologies with brief lists of further reading, or are a little out of date for twenty-first-century students. This modestly priced book will be valuable to librarians and faculty and should certainly be available at academic and large public libraries. It appears not be available electronically, and that would perhaps vastly increase its usefulness.—*Martha E. Stone, Coordinator for Reference Services, Treadwell Library, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston*

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Encyclopedia. By Clayborne Carson, Tenisha Armstrong, Susan Carson, Erin Cook, and Susan Englander. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 456p. alkaline \$65 (ISBN 978-0-313-29440-2).

Given the significance of Martin Luther King Jr. in shaping modern America, it is surprising that there has not been a reference work devoted to his life and work. This single-volume encyclopedia helps fill that gap. The 285 essays chronicle Martin Luther King Jr.'s relationships with family members, civil rights activists, politicians, and opponents. Also receiving attention are landmark speeches, legal decisions, events, and ideas that influenced the civil rights era. As might be expected, many entries cover familiar people and events, such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Ralph Abernathy. Wisely, the authors do not seek to fully explore every aspect of these larger topics, but focus on how they relate to King. Clayborne Carson and his colleagues are uniquely qualified to make these connections. The encyclopedia draws upon the work of scholars at the King Research and Education Institute, who have spent years compiling, researching, and annotating the published papers of Martin Luther King Jr.

While the content reflects the substantial scholarship invested in the Martin Luther King Jr. Papers Project, the essays are quite accessible to a wide range of readers. The authors have done an admirable job distilling a substantial body of knowledge into concise summaries appropriate for high school, public, or academic audiences. Most essays are one-to-two pages long and include citations to relevant primary sources, in particular material from the Martin Luther King Jr. Papers Project. Additional primary sources, such as contemporary news and magazine articles, are referenced, while comparatively few secondary sources are recommended.

Libraries considering purchasing this work should be aware that the content closely mirrors that of the *King Encyclopedia*, developed by the King Institute and available online at www.stanford.edu/group/King/about_king/encyclopedia. Not every entry was compared for this review, but several of those that were examined were identical in both the print and online versions. Some essays were revised for the print publication, in some cases including citations of additional sources. Comparing the two, the print encyclopedia offers an introductory overview of King's career and a brief chronology while the online encyclopedia provides links to related content, including scanned images of selected source documents from the King Papers project. For libraries seeking the relative stability of print, this inexpensive volume is a welcome addition to reference collections on African American history and the civil rights movement.—Eric Novotny, *Humanities Librarian, Pennsylvania State University, University Park*

Nations and Nationalism: A Global Historical Overview. Ed. by Guntram H. Herb and David H. Kaplan. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 4 vols. alkaline \$395 (ISBN 978-1-85109-907-8).

Geographers Guntram Herb (Middlebury College) and David Kaplan (Kent State) have made a valuable contribution with this distinctive work that admirably fulfills its objective of identifying “major historical eras in the development of nations and nationalism” and examining “characteristic themes and representative cases” thereof (xi). Admittedly selective and eschewing any pretense toward comprehensiveness, the book contains more than one hundred in-depth articles, chronologically arranged in four volumes, proffered as “accessible introductions” and “concise information” targeted at students and nonspecialists (xi). Drawing on examples from every part of the world, its eclecticism underlies its attempt to promote greater understanding of its subject, billed as “perhaps the most influential set of identities and ideologies in the world today” (xiii).

Short historical essays introduce the volumes, all of which contain a detailed index covering the entire set. The volumes span the years 1770 to 1880, 1880 to 1945, 1945 to 1989, and 1989 to the present, segments that correspond with important historical periods in the evolution of nationalism. Each of the four-thousand-word country- or region-specific entries within the volumes is similarly structured, comprising a chronology followed by an essay with five sections: “Situating the Nation,” providing overall context; “Instituting the Nation,” identifying key actors and institutions; “Defining the Nation,” explaining the sources of national identity; “Narrating the Nation,” discussing the basis for a sense of national community; and “Mobilizing and Building the Nation,” focusing on undertakings to legitimize the national idea. The uniformity of the essays ensures that all major aspects are covered and facilitates comparison. A selected bibliography follows each of the entries, which also include maps, sidebars elaborating on the main narrative, and illustrations that provide interesting and useful additions.

Complementing the entries are forty-two longer thematic essays related to various aspects of the interplay between nationhood, politics, culture, and society. These are also formulaic, discussing the topic's relevance, origins, dimensions (scope and impact), and consequences. Among the topics addressed are various facets and dimensions of nationalism (e.g., conflict, education, gender, class, religion, geopolitics, language, literature, and globalization). Other areas explored include national identity, nation building, ethnic cleansing and genocide, and national rituals.

The unique historical arrangement of the book distinguishes it from past encyclopedic treatments acknowledged in the preface, notably *Encyclopaedia of Nationalism*, edited by Athena Leoussi (Transaction, 2001), and *Encyclopedia of Nationalism* by Louis Snyder (Paragon House, 1990), and makes it a worthy successor to Alexander Motyl's somewhat analogous two-volume magisterial work, *Encyclopedia of Nationalism* (Academic Press, 2001), which separates discussion into two categories: “Fundamental Themes” and “Leaders, Movements and Concepts.”

The shortcomings of the book are inconsequential. It would have been nice to include some more information about the credentials of the contributors, for whom only institutional affiliations are provided. Reproducing the tables of contents for all volumes at the beginning of each of them would have been useful also.

In sum, this is an impressive and noteworthy work, also available in electronic format, which should prove a welcome addition to academic collections in political science, appealing to undergraduate and graduate students alike. It is suitable for reference collections, but because each volume can stand on its own, it could circulate as well.—David Ettinger, *International Affairs and Political Science Librarian, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.*

Student Encyclopedia of African Literature. By G. D. Killam and A. L. Kerfoot. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 368p. alkaline \$85 (ISBN 978-0-313-33580-8).

Greenwood Press has recently thrown its hat into the world literature ring with the new publication, *Student Encyclopedia of African Literature*. With nearly six hundred entries, the work offers both a historical perspective and a contemporary context for readers to fully embark on a better understanding of African literature. The book provides a fine and solid introduction to African literature without overwhelming anyone who picks it up. For instance, one does not need a master's degree in English to understand the topical entries or to have enrolled in advanced classes in literary theory to comprehend major themes the book discusses. The authors' writing style is good for both upper-level high school students and an undergraduate college population.

The alphabetically arranged entries range from one or two paragraphs to a page in length. Within each entry, if there is a cross-reference to another entry within the book, the cross-referenced phrase is put in bold. The work also includes a list