

(Scribner, 1999), *Encyclopedia of Criminology* (Routledge, 2005), and another Sage publication, *Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment* (Sage, 2002). Note that I did not have access to the second edition of *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace, and Conflict* (Academic Press, 2008). *Encyclopedia of Interpersonal Violence* fills a niche with its focus on informing a general audience about the many different forms of interpersonal violence.

Recommended for the general public, particularly high school and undergraduate students. This source would be particularly useful to those interested in learning more about career options in criminal justice, law, sociology, social work, and related fields. Also available electronically, the online version of *Encyclopedia of Interpersonal Violence* is easy to use and worthy of consideration for libraries opting for electronic rather than print reference titles.—Nancy Frazier, *Instructional Services Librarian, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania*

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***Encyclopedia of New Year's Holidays Worldwide.*** By William D. Crump. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2008. 379p. alkaline \$75 (ISBN 978-0-7864-3393-3).

After writing two editions of *The Christmas Encyclopedia* (McFarland, 2001 and 2006), the author realized there was a wealth of material dealing with New Year's holidays. The result is this unique work, which consists of 320 entries dealing with customs and traditions from 130 countries, or regions when customs are similar. There are also twenty-seven entries on major historic and modern calendar systems as well as entries on church feasts, universal customs such as toasting, songs and movies, superstitions, and even celebrations in the White House.

Entries are arranged alphabetically and, in the case of entries for countries, include information about the ethnic and religious composition of the country as well as the name of the observation, information about the observances or festivals, the cuisine, and the terms for New Year's greetings. The entries on movies include production credits and availability notes, whereas entries on poems and songs may include the complete text of the piece. All entries are accessible, written in a straightforward but interesting style, and provide the information most patrons want.

It is apparent that the author has carefully considered the way patrons and librarians will use this volume. He provides "see" and "see also" references, and all of the small, sometimes dark and grainy, black-and-white photographs and illustrations are credited within the captions so the patron does not have to struggle to try to find the information in an appendix. There is also an extensive list of consulted references, which includes print resources, Wikipedia citations, websites listed at the back of the book, and a good index.

There are other general reference works that cover festivals and celebrations, such as *Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of World Holidays* (U\*X\*L, 2000) for the school market or the older, somewhat dated, *Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations of*

*the World Dictionary: Detailing More Than 2,000 Observances from All 50 States and More Than 100 Nations* (Omnigraphics, 2nd ed., 1997), which provides broad coverage on many observances. *Encyclopedia of New Year's Holidays Worldwide* is unique because it provides in-depth coverage of the observances of a "single" holiday in all its many guises as well as the songs, movies, and literary works associated with it.

I recommend this for high school through college libraries and public libraries that need reference material in this area; it is well worth the price because it will save you time looking for unusual facts.—Dona J. Helmer, *Librarian, Anchorage (Alaska) School District*

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***Encyclopedia of Scientific Principles, Laws, and Theories.*** By Robert E. Krebs. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 2 vols. alkaline \$199.95 (ISBN 978-0-313-34005-5).

The intent of this work is to present in just two volumes a historical overview of the most important principles, laws, theories, hypotheses, and concepts that reflect the progression of scientific descriptions and explanations. Covering astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics, medicine, meteorology, and physics, the scope of this work spans topics before the common era (BCE) to present-day modern theories. The targeted audience is high school and college students or even general readers who are motivated to find out why the Earth and universe work as they do.

There are approximately 700 entries on 736 pages. The arrangement is a traditional alphabetical list of the names of the men or women who are best known for their discovery or development or after whom the particular scientific law or theory is named. Entries include a short biography of the main discoverers, including additional information that is of particular importance to the evolution of the scientific topic. Many entries have highlighted sidebars offering points of interest, such as the usefulness of the theories, principles, and laws in everyday life. Also included with each entry are resources for further research. A selective bibliography, including a list of related Internet resources, is provided to direct the reader toward useful primary and secondary reference materials.

This book is a black-and-white work with easy-to-read print; illustrations are few and simplistic for clarity. There is a glossary, and the four appendixes include entries by scientific discipline and Nobel Prize recipients. The alphabetical index is thorough but offers no cross-referencing.

Covering a much broader range of science topics, numerous larger general science encyclopedias such as *Van Nostrand's Scientific Encyclopedia* (Wiley-Interscience, 2008) or the *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology* (McGraw-Hill, 2008) contain similar information that can be found much more quickly and concisely in *Encyclopedia of Scientific Principles, Laws, and Theories*. As a comparison, there is only one previous similar work that was found in WorldCat: James S. Trefil's *The Nature of Science: An A-Z Guide to the Laws and Principles Governing Our Universe* (Houghton

## SOURCES

Mifflin, 2003). In one 433-page volume, Trefil appears to be the first author to attempt to bring together brief essays on the significant laws of nature and brilliant scientific discoveries over the ages, though there is no great depth to entries. As a first of its kind, some critics found problems with a few entries, yet it was considered to be a thorough and compact resource for scientific principles. The first chapter gives an excellent introduction to the history of science and why there was a need for such a publication. For the nonscientist, it is a quick overview and access point to broadening one's interest and knowledge of the universe.

*Encyclopedia of Scientific Principles, Laws, and Theories* appears to be an improvement and expansion over Trefil's work. Krebs's publication is a scientifically literate reference work destined to become a standard library reference resource. It is highly recommended for high school, public, and academic libraries of all sizes. The book is also available as an online electronic reference work.—David M. Fagerstrom, Faculty Director, Science Library, University of Colorado, Boulder

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***Encyclopedia of Social Problems.*** Ed. by Vincent N. Parrillo. Los Angeles: Sage, 2008. 2 vols. acid free \$350 (ISBN 978-1-4129-4165-5).

Vincent N. Parrillo, professor of sociology at the William Patterson University of New Jersey, provides a great resource in the *Encyclopedia of Social Problems*. The encyclopedia covers a wide array of social science issues and problems, with a focus on American issues. This two-volume set contains more than six hundred entries arranged alphabetically. A list of entries and a thematic reader's guide are useful for finding information quickly and easily. Some major themes in the reader's guide are crime and deviance, education, and substance abuse. The set has an impressive forty-nine-page index. Each entry has a small bibliography of sources useful for further research.

In comparison to similar reference works, such as James Ciment's *Social Issues in America: An Encyclopedia* (Sharpe, 2006), the articles are brief and concise. When comparing the entries on urban sprawl, *Social Issues* offers a more in-depth look at these topics with a glossary, chronology, and tables and graphs. A weakness of *Encyclopedia of Social Problems* is that it has only a few charts, tables, or images throughout the text. But the size of the two encyclopedias differs greatly: seven volumes for *Social Issues*, two for *Encyclopedia of Social Problems*. These two volumes may be more than sufficient for some smaller public and academic libraries and particularly suitable for high school libraries with limited space and budget. The strength of *Encyclopedia of Social Issues* is its organization, the wide array of issues included, and its selection of interdisciplinary topics. This work is very cohesive and comprehensive without being overwhelming, a common drawback of similar works.

The encyclopedia does an excellent job of covering all social sciences and not leaning toward one discipline, so it is useful for all social science students. The work has strengths

in education and criminal justice, and its coverage of social movements is of particular value for social work and sociology students. The entries are basic enough for general studies but in some cases offer sufficient depth that would be invaluable to sociology, psychology, and other social sciences students looking for a brief overview of a topic.

*Encyclopedia of Social Problems* is recommended for high school libraries, public library reference collections, and undergraduate academic libraries.—Alisa C. Gonzalez, *Social Sciences Librarian, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces*

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***Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora: Origins, Experiences, and Culture.*** Ed. by Carole B. Davies. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 3 vols. acid free \$295 (ISBN 978-1-85109-700-5).

Increasing interest among scholars in studying the dispersal, forced or voluntary, of African peoples throughout the world makes *Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora: Origins, Experiences, and Cultures* a timely publication. This addition to the growing body of literature on the topic draws on the editorial oversight and expertise of the faculty in Florida International University's African-New World Studies program. Contributors to the encyclopedia include an international group of scholars, graduate students, and independent researchers.

Typical entries run from 250 to 500 words, with more space allocated to contributions from major scholars; the editor cites C. L. R. James as an example. Each entry is signed and includes "see also" references and a selection of further readings that is impressively current in most instances, although a disturbing trend in reference works to cite websites is evident in the single further reading suggested for the article on jerk seasoning.

Coverage includes regional and country essays, individual biographies for major figures, political movements, projects, concepts and theory, significant events, health, healing and medicine, artistic expression, and cultural, economic, and religious aspects of African peoples in Diaspora. Treatment is both historical and contemporary. Geographic scope is worldwide, although some areas—Australia for example—are underrepresented. Arrangement is alphabetical. The target audience is students in high school through college and the general public.

There are, to this reviewer, some curious inclusions and omissions. Why does "Hair" merit an article and "Hairstyles" an index entry but not, for instance, language? Linguistic discussions are included in several articles, "Black/Blackness: Philosophical Considerations" and "Creole, Creolity, Creolization" for example, but there are no entries in the index for language or for linguistics, nor does the encyclopedia contain a separate article on language and language transmission in the Diaspora. Although there are separate articles on gumbo, and the aforementioned jerk seasoning, there is no index entry under food or cookery that would lead the uninitiated to either, nor is there a separate article about cultural food exchanges in the Diaspora. For that matter, the reader unfa-