

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

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*

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-