

(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*

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*

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