Reference Books

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Editor

African Americans in the Media Today: An Encyclopedia. Ed. by

This handy two-volume set, edited by Sam G. Riley, con-
sists of brief biographical sketches of more than 250 African
Americans currently or formerly employed in the U.S. news
media. Riley, a professor at Virginia Polytechnic University,
has created a well-organized and unique reference work. The
collection covers syndicated and local columnists, broadcast
news figures, magazine figures, sport columnists, sportscast-
ers, editors, and more.

Each entry includes basic biographical information: date
of birth, education, career details, and so on. The entries also
present individuals’ positions on relevant issues. For example,
the sketch on Marcus Mabry, chief of correspondents for
Newsweek, contains his views on such topics as Americans’
unawareness of international news and Hurricane Katrina.
Each sketch includes a list of further readings and some
sketches include original documents, such as newspaper
columns written by the individual profiled. For example,
the entry for C. Gerald Fraser, a veteran columnist, contains
the full article he wrote about the significance for African Ameri-
can journalists of the Jayson Blair scandal.

The biographies are organized alphabetically. Included
in volume 1 is a list of entries organized by profession and a
chronology of key events for African Americans in the news
media. Volume 2 contains a thirteen-page bibliography.

African Americans in the Media Today is the only encyclo-
pedia of its kind to provide a convenient source for biogra-
phies in this important and surprisingly neglected subject
area. Overall, this reference set is an exceptional resource for
any academic or public library. It will be particularly useful
for college students researching African American Studies
or journalism topics. Recommended for public and college
libraries.—Colleen Lougen, Electronic Resources Librarian, State
University of New York, New Paltz

Career Opportunities in Conservation and the Environment. Paul

Resources on career opportunities are among the most
popular titles in all libraries. With a much-heightened inter-
est in “going green,” Career Opportunities in Conservation and
the Environment is a timely publication for those interested in
learning more about various career options related to conser-
vation and the environment.

The sixty-nine job profiles are organized into seven sec-
tions: Ecotourism (camp counselor, wilderness guide), Engi-
neering (surveyor, geospatial engineer), Farming and Fishing
(crop scientist, rural appraiser), Forestry (logger, urban for-
ester), Legal and Regulatory (park manager, fish and wildlife
officer), Outdoor/Environmental Education (marine science
instructor, recreation planner), and Scientific (geoscientist,
oceanographer). Each section contains between three and
fifteen profiles. Job profiles are three to four pages in length
and provide information on salaries, employment prospects,
a detailed position description, education and training re-
quirements, advancement prospects, and a very useful “tips
for entry” listing the steps that individuals can take to prepare
themselves for that particular career.

The work contains several appendixes including a listing
of professional associations, professional certifications, and
a comprehensive directory of colleges that offer degrees and
training programs organized by state for most of the jobs. A
bibliography and index are included.

This is another title in the Career Opportunities series
published by Ferguson Publishers, producers of the superb
Encyclopedia of Careers and Vocational Guidance (Ferguson,
14th ed., 2008), a standard reference source found in most
libraries. The work nicely supplements Odom Fanning’s Op-
portunities in Environmental Careers (VGM, 2002) and The
ECO Guide to Careers That Make A Difference (Island Press,
2004). This welcome addition to career resources is attrac-
tively laid out, easy to use, great for browsing or for detailed
information on specific jobs. It would be useful for environ-
mentally minded high school and college students, academic
program directors, vocational program directors, and all other
career development professionals.—Eva Lautemann, Director
of Learning Resources, Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkson

Latin-America & the Caribbean. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO,

Cuba: A Global Studies Handbook, by Ted Henken (Sociolo-
ogy and Black and Hispanic Studies, Baruch College, City Uni-
versity of New York), is a unique resource offering a variety of
information on Cuban history, economy, and society. The first
section of this work contains four chapters. “Geography and
History” provides an overview of Cuba’s climate, topography,
flora, fauna, and conservation efforts, followed by a concise
history, beginning with the pre-Columbian era and ending
with the Cuban Missile Crisis. An emphasis is given to the
revolutionary period. “Economics and Development” focuses
on the second half of the twentieth century and includes an
informative analysis of the state’s often ambivalent attitudes
and actions concerning the opening of the Cuban economy
to private enterprise. “Institutions” describes the origins and
functions of civil, political, social, and military institutions
created after the 1959 revolution. Finally, “Culture and Soci-
ety” covers a variety of topics including religion, the family,
race, national identity, the Cuban-American community, and
the arts. This chapter’s detailed history of Cuban music and
the many musical forms it has generated both within Cuba