

## Reference Books

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Editor

***African Americans in the Media Today: An Encyclopedia.*** Ed. by Sam G. Riley. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2007. 2 vols. alkaline \$175 (ISBN 978-0-313-33679-9).

This handy two-volume set, edited by Sam G. Riley, consists 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, sports columnists, sportscasters, 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 American 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 encyclopedia of its kind to provide a convenient source for biographies 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 Greenland and Anna Marie Sheldon. New York: Ferguson, 2008. 336p. acid free \$49.50 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6742-8).

Resources on career opportunities are among the most popular titles in all libraries. With a much-heightened interest 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 conservation and the environment.

The sixty-nine job profiles are organized into seven sections: Ecotourism (camp counselor, wilderness guide), Engi-

neering (surveyor, geospatial engineer), Farming and Fishing (crop scientist, rural appraiser), Forestry (logger, urban forester), 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 requirements, 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 *Opportunities 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 attractively laid out, easy to use, great for browsing or for detailed information on specific jobs. It would be useful for environmentally 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, Clarkston*

***Cuba: A Global Studies Handbook.*** Ted Henken. Global Studies: Latin-America & the Caribbean. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 578p. alkaline \$55 (ISBN 978-1-85109-984-9).

*Cuba: A Global Studies Handbook*, by Ted Henken (Sociology and Black and Hispanic Studies, Baruch College, City University 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 Society" 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