

## SOURCES

illustrations are scattered throughout the text. From “Fat Activism” to “Menstruation Related Practices and Products,” and from “Chastity Belt” to “Cultural History of Semen,” the 110 individual articles are an interesting read accessible to high school students and above. The fourteen-page selected bibliography consists of books and journal articles spanning 1852 to 2008. A few key titles are absent, including Valerie Steele’s *The Corset: A Cultural History*. Further reading sections at the end of each signed article list books, articles, and websites.

Using the index to locate topics is essential, as scanning the article listings in the table of contents will not suffice to locate all of the disparate articles. For example, the subtopic “Cultural History of the Vagina” is subsumed under the chapter entitled “Uterus” rather than in the subsequent chapter, “Vagina.” There is no section in the chapter titled “Hands” that concerns fingernails.

This work is not meant to be a medical encyclopedia, and patrons looking for information on the medical risks and complications related to a particular procedure will find scant information on such issues. Perhaps owing to the long essay format of the *Cultural Encyclopedia of the Body*, there are no bolded cross-references and only occasional “see also” referrals at the end of articles.

A closely related reference work is the *Encyclopedia of Body Adornment* (Greenwood, 2007). Arranged alphabetically from “Acupuncture” to “Zulueta, Leo,” the 207 entries cover topics dealing with body modification as well as body adornment. Entries vary in length from one-third of a page for “Hand Piercing” to six pages for “Prison Tattooing,” with most entries between one and three pages in length. With bolded cross-references as well as “see also” references at the end of each entry, topics are easy to locate. There is considerable overlap between the *Cultural Encyclopedia of the Body* and the *Encyclopedia of Body Adornment* with respect to body modification and adornment, with the latter title the easier to use. Where the *Cultural Encyclopedia of the Body* presents new material, it largely concerns topics relating to internal body parts and to the reproductive system, such as “Cultural History of Childbirth” and “Cultural History of Blood.”

For those public and undergraduate libraries that do not have the *Encyclopedia of Body Adornment*, the *Cultural Encyclopedia of the Body* would flesh out a reference collection.—J. Christina Smith, *Anthropology and Sociology Bibliographer*, Boston University

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***Diseases and Disorders***. Ed. by Wendy Horobin. Tarrytown, New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2008. 3 vols. alkaline \$279.95 (ISBN 978-0-7614-7770-9).

*Diseases and Disorders* is a concise and nicely organized three-volume encyclopedia intended for young readers, although it certainly would also be suitable for adults. This publication starts from the premise that knowledge about diseases and disorders can promote good health, particularly among children, since many diseases are preventable and many disorders, especially mental health concerns, first manifest in childhood. This underlying theme—that increased

awareness of diseases and disorders may encourage healthier behaviors, risk-reduction strategies, and earlier diagnosis and treatment—finds its expression in an attractive, striking, and intentional work. A secondary goal of the set is to inspire young readers to study science, medicine, and public health and to pursue careers in health-related professions. The scope of *Diseases and Disorders* is international, and the overall impression is of great care being taken to make its organization, written content, illustrations, and overall style consistent with its themes and goals.

There are more than three hundred entries in *Diseases and Disorders* divided into four categories and designated by colors: overviews, infections, noninfectious diseases, and mental disorders. The color coding is an appealing way to organize the set and also results in a colorful presentation of the material. According to the foreword, entries were written and edited by experts. A substantial number of consultants and contributors from prestigious healthcare institutions assisted with the production of this set.

A typical entry for a disease features a short definition in a colored box, a summary box with key facts, and subsections for cause, risk factors, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, and cross-references. The overview entries are longer and provide a wider perspective on major health issues, such as blindness and dental disorders. Overview articles also include cross-references to other entries. Entries include striking color photographs, carefully chosen for their impact. These photographs are complemented by colorful diagrams and graphics. The writing style is focused, practical, and concise, but without watering down or sugar-coating any of the information. Although some of the photographs and diagrams are disturbing, they present the real-world truth about what diseases and medical treatment really look like, which could be inspiring for students who may be thinking about health-care careers.

The first two volumes of *Diseases and Disorders* have their own indexes, glossaries, and lists of print publications and websites for nonprofit organizations and government agencies. The third volume has two comprehensive indexes, one in alphabetical order, the other by category; a complete glossary; and an overall list of resources, including information for health hotlines. There are tables of contents for each volume and one for the entire set. The foreword includes a summary of the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases and disorders along with a brief description of the scope and organization of the entries.

There are many sources for information on health and diseases; however, comprehensive publications intended for a juvenile audience are more limited in number. Some of the other choices include Brigham Narin’s *World of Health* (Gale, 2000), Bryan H. Bunch’s eight-volume *Diseases* (Grolier, 1997), the humorously titled, four-volume set *Sick! Diseases and Disorders, Injuries and Infections* by David E. Newton (U-X-L), two works by Neil Izenberg, *Human Diseases and Conditions* with supplements for behavioral health and infectious diseases (Scribner/Thomson/Gale, 2000–), and the recently published *Complete Human Diseases and Conditions* (Gale,

2008) and *Encyclopedia of Health*, 3rd ed. (Marshall Cavendish, 2003) with sixteen volumes. *Diseases and Disorders* is more recently published than several of the sources mentioned, and it does fill a gap in the literature by concentrating on broader themes and more selective coverage within health and medicine rather than exhaustive treatment of specific individual diseases. The overview sections in *Diseases and Disorders* are particularly noteworthy, and the coverage of mental disorders is also helpful.

*Diseases and Disorders* would be an excellent addition to high school and even middle school libraries. It would also be appropriate for the juvenile reference collection in public libraries. Although intended for young readers, this handy, well-written, and attractive set would also be useful for adults, especially parents.—Sara Anne Hook, Professor of Informatics and Associate Dean, Indiana University School of Informatics, Indianapolis

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***Encyclopedia of American Government and Civics.*** By Michael A. Genovese and Lori C. Han. Facts On File Library of American History. New York: Facts On File, 2009. 3 vols. alkaline \$250 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6616-2).

The editors have put together a strong resource geared, according to the publisher, to the undergraduate and high school audience. Their challenge was to address the complexities of the American political system, interest in which has grown in tandem with the development of the Internet and the growth of mass information movements. The Internet has exponentially increased the amount and availability of grassroots participation in the American political system and has brought more of the institutions, processes, and political players to the forefront for many more people to see, read about, and question. An up-to-date resource like this is a valuable asset.

The essays are lucid and tightly written, and of an appropriate length to introduce, inform, and educate. Occasionally an essay carries a stronger opinion than might be expected, but all are signed (primarily academicians) and contain further reading suggestions (most of which are of an academic nature). There is a larger, additional bibliography addressing the entire subject matter of the work, and there is a master index.

The first two volumes, dealing with the three branches of federal government, civil rights, civic responsibilities, and political participation, as well as the foundations and history of American government, are on target, highly readable, and informative. The inclusion of a third volume dealing with public policy, state and local government, and international politics and economics, while relevant in the sense that those issues are part of American politics, seems to take the encyclopedia off on tangents. It is not necessarily a distraction, or a deterrent to purchasing the work, but broadens the scope beyond what is expected.

There are certainly other works that address some of the subjects in more detail. For example, the *Encyclopedia of the United States Congress* (1995) and the *Encyclopedia of the*

*American Presidency* (1994) from Simon and Schuster, and *Guide to Congress* (1997) from Congressional Quarterly, cover more subjects, but are also geared to an audience seeking more information.

This work is a relevant, functional combination of the basics as well as the most up-to-date concepts in American government and civics. It could serve both as a starting point for more research and as a one-stop shop for someone who just wants to learn the basic concepts of a particular subject. Designed for a wide audience seeking thoughtful, easy-to-grasp information, it is recommended for undergraduate and public library collections.—Christopher Lee Cochran, Reference Librarian, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Washington, D.C.

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***Encyclopedia of Counseling.*** Ed. by Frederick T. Leong and W. B. Walsh. Los Angeles: Sage, 2008. 4 vols. alkaline \$795 (ISBN 978-1-4129-0928-0).

Here is an example of an encyclopedia where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The four volumes are an overview of counseling of many types and uses. Each volume stands alone in its emphasis on four major themes: changes and challenges for counseling in the twenty-first century; personal and emotional counseling; cross-cultural counseling; and career counseling. Together, they are a resource with wide appeal and use for professionals, students, and the general public.

Each volume begins with an alphabetical list of entries for that volume, a reader's guide for locating topical entries in all four volumes, information on the editors for that volume, and a list of the contributors and their affiliations. The six-page introduction to the encyclopedia in volume 1 is worth reading by all who want a succinct explanation of the field of counseling psychology as compared and contrasted with other mental health professions. The rationale and purpose of providing a "comprehensive overview of the theories, models, techniques and challenges" (xxvii) appears to be largely fulfilled. Of course, as in any large work, someone's favorite theory or technique may not be included, but all I checked for were there. Counseling is by and for people. The respect in the field for the sixty-nine persons whose work continues to contribute to counseling practice is apparent in the biographies throughout the four volumes. Volume 4 includes a very detailed 180-page index to the complete work.

As in any good encyclopedia, the signed entries include cross-references and further readings lists. The entries are clearly written, seemingly by people who enjoy the subject in question. The writing styles mostly fall somewhere in between the remote third person and the social first person, very similar to the place the counselor tries to operate. The entry "Relationships With Clients" is a good starting point to discuss this topic in a college classroom, in the office, at a professional meeting, and in explaining the counselor's role in relation to the public.

Older works with similar names are *Encyclopedia of Counseling: Master Review and Tutorial for the National Counselor*