

SOURCES

Examination (Routledge, 2002) and *Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology and Counseling* (Baker Academic, 1999). The first has the specific purpose of being a study guide of 1,050 questions to prepare for an examination. The second is designed for counselors working from a Christian perspective. The new *Encyclopedia of Counseling* is broader in scope and perspective than these earlier works.

Counseling psychology has a rich publishing history with thousands of books and articles. There are shorter works on many counseling issues, reference books on specific topics, and sections in general psychology encyclopedias on aspects of counseling. The work done here to summarize and synthesize movements, research, and applications in an authoritative, accessible manner makes this a valuable addition to college, university, and large public library collections. There also is an electronic version available from Sage.—*Linda Loos Scarth, Reference Librarian (retired), Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

Encyclopedia of Hispanic-American Literature. By Luz E. Ramirez. Facts On File Library of American Literature. New York: Facts On File, 2008. 447p. alkaline \$75 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6084-9).

This book is designed as a general introduction of Hispanic-American literature for readers and students. The term “Hispanic-American,” meaning anyone of a Spanish-speaking culture who lives in the United States, is used interchangeably with Latino in this book. Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban-Americans, Dominican-Americans, and newly emerging group Latin Americans are the focus here because of their dominant population in the United States.

This dictionary-style reference book is arranged alphabetically. Wisely, the book extends beyond strictly covering just the literature and authors to include significant events and other relevant topic areas, all of which have clearly affected Hispanic-American literature. The front matter includes a seven-page introduction that gives a deft literature review for each ethnic group listed above, as well as some sense of the motivations, settings, and strong effect of cultural history on the literature.

There are some editorial weaknesses in the book. When a book covers multiple topic areas like this one, providing various categorized lists can greatly help students with limited knowledge to use the book more efficiently. As an example, for literary figures in this book, the type of writing done by the author is noted in the entry: “Denise Chavéz (novelist, playwright, poet).” However, there is no separate, categorized list of writers arranged by type of writing. There is only one list in the back matter, “Bibliography of Major Works by Hispanic-American Authors,” which lists all titled works written by authors in this volume.

Another editorial weakness is the use of italics instead of bold within the individual entries to note terms found elsewhere in the book. The average reader notes bolded terms much more efficiently. There are few cross-references except for variations in a literary author’s last name. Having multiple points of entry can greatly enhance usability of reference books, particularly for grades 9–12. There are no photo-

graphs, maps, or graphics in the book at all; this is another significant weakness.

The credibility and strength of the peer-reviewed content is readily apparent. Each entry is individually authored and includes a bibliography. All contributors are connected to major universities and are listed at the end of the book.

The focus and detail of the content is a significant strength. The synopses of Hispanic-American works found in this volume are more detailed and focused on themes and perspectives unique to the culture than those found in other sources. These are literary analyses, not merely a recitation of plot lines. Biographical entries include numerous direct references to the writer’s work and an analysis of the effect of the writer’s life events on her or his writing.

The generalized nature of this book fills a niche in the marketplace. Other similar books are anthologies of Hispanic-American literature or analyses concentrated on one topic area of the overall literature. There is no comparable Web-based information available, even from reference sites. Biographies of Hispanic-American writers such as Julia Alvarez on www.encyclopedia.com lack the currency, detail, and emphasis on the culture found in this book.

Encyclopedia of Hispanic-American Literature consolidates all the important people, literary works, and events of Hispanic culture in one place for those students and researchers who may not know where to look when starting the research process. Those in grades 9–12 who need topic ideas and background information will be the ideal users of this book. It would be helpful if this work were updated every five years or so to include new writers and significant events affecting Hispanic-American literature and culture.—*Theresa Kelly Darr, Library Director, Loyola Blakefield, Towson, Maryland*

The Encyclopedia of North American Colonial Conflicts to 1775: A Political, Social, and Military History. Ed. by Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 3 vols. alkaline \$295 (ISBN 978-1-85109-752-4).

Anyone who imagines that prerevolutionary North America was not molded by conflict can benefit from browsing this encyclopedia, which is written for the general public but also contains a volume of original documents. Four wars between France and England, the violent enforcement of slavery, and chronic warfare between European settlers and natives all played major roles in shaping colonial life. The encyclopedia covers these and other conflict topics with more than eight hundred entries and numerous black-and-white maps and illustrations. The work is intended to be the first in a series of fourteen sets about American military history.

The first volume leads with general maps of the period and an extensive overview of colonial life. After the entries in the second volume there are appendixes on military rank structures, statistical information on the colonies, a chronology, a glossary, and a selected bibliography. The third volume consists of 166 documents, edited by James Arnold and Roberta Wiener, ranging chronologically from the Treaty of Tordesillas to “Yankee Doodle.”

The new set is comparable to Allan Galloway's one-volume *Colonial Wars of North America 1512–1763* (Garland, 1996), but some of its battle articles are shorter while its coverage of “conflicts” is broader than just wars. Its coverage of society is not as comprehensive as is Jacob Ernest Cooke's *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies* (Scribner, 1993), which includes a chapter on “War and Diplomacy” but addresses many other historical themes as well.

By providing entries written at a popular reading level along with original documents that are more challenging to read, the new encyclopedia aims to reach a varied audience. The prime market would be undergraduates learning to do research using original documents, but secondary school students would find the first two volumes useful, while scholars would appreciate the third.—*Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

Encyclopedia of Society and Culture in the Medieval World. Ed. by Pam J. Crabtree. Facts On File Library of World History. New York: Facts On File, 2008. 4 vols. acid free \$360 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6936-1).

Encyclopedia of Society and Culture in the Medieval World is one of the latest additions to the Facts On File Library of World History. Edited by Pam J. Crabtree, an associate professor of anthropology at New York University, this four-volume set contains seventy-one entries on aspects of the civilization of the world between the fall of the Roman Empire and the European Renaissance. Fourteen of these, considered “major” topics, are given more in-depth coverage and include subjects such as agriculture, empires and dynasties, and war and conquest. The volumes are arranged alphabetically by entry and contain a general introduction followed by signed articles on each topic from the perspective of different civilization centers in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Islamic World. The authors of the articles are academics and scholars specializing in history and medieval studies and come from a wide range of institutions in the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Middle East. Cross references to other articles in the volume as well as selected references are listed at the end of each entry, and excerpts from primary source documents, sidebars on related topics, illustrations, and maps accompany the text. A glossary, a general bibliography, a chronology, and an index round out the volume. The text itself is written in plain language and is easy to read, and foreign concepts are fully explained.

There have been a number of reference resources published in the last ten years or so on the medieval period, including the American Council of Learned Societies' *The Middle Ages: An Encyclopedia for Students* (Scribner, 1996), Streissguth's *Greenhaven Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages* (Greenhaven Thompson/Gale, 2003) and two earlier entries in the Facts On File World History series, *The Encyclopedia of the Medieval World* (Facts On File, 2005) and *Handbook of Life in the Medieval World* (Facts On File, 2008). With the exception of the last title, these references deal mainly with history and do not generally cover the same type of sociological and

cultural aspects of the medieval world discussed in this work. However, there are major overlaps in coverage between the *Handbook of Life in the Medieval World* and the *Encyclopedia of Society and Culture in the Medieval World*, and it is probably not necessary to purchase both. Although the cost is greater, the fuller geographical coverage in the *Encyclopedia of Society and Culture in the Medieval World* makes this a better option for high school and public libraries and academic institutions serving undergraduate students.—*Amanda K. Sprochi, Health Sciences Cataloger, University of Missouri, Columbia*

Encyclopedia of Stem Cell Research. Ed. by Clive N. Svendsen and Allison D. Ebert. Los Angeles: Sage, 2008. 2 vols. \$250 (ISBN 978-1-4129-5908-7).

The two coeditors of this encyclopedia work at the University of Wisconsin–Madison's Stem Cell Research Program. Their comprehensive reference source provides informative, well-written articles on all aspects of stem cells in a writing style that is understandable to the lay public. Overviews of research, researchers, their work, major institutes and universities, summaries of each state's laws and attitudes, stem cell development and uses, and the basic biological concepts contribute to make this title nearly universal in scope. Discussions of political, ethical, and moral issues furnish good brief summaries of the viewpoints of major religious groups.

More than three hundred articles appear, signed and with bibliographies of journal citations and websites. A chronology appears in volume 1, tracing briefly the historical high points in stem cell discovery and research. Three lengthy appendixes (spanning more than two hundred pages in volume 2) contain reports prepared for Congress and the president as well as transcripts of congressional hearings on stem cells and cloning. Additional material includes a glossary, a resource guide, and a list of scientists engaged in stem cell research.

The articles on major diseases emphasize how stem cells are or could be utilized to fight each disease, as well as basic descriptions. Detailed sketches on more than thirty researchers combine both biographical information and a summary of their current work. Pieces on nearly sixty research centers and institutions supply specifics on their programs, their areas of focus, and their scientists. Write-ups for every state and twenty-two other countries summarize each place's ideas, ideologies, and any current research.

Material on the actual growth and handling of stem cells is better sought in the primary literature, as the field changes so rapidly. Recommended for all libraries. Sage and the Gale Virtual Reference Library offer e-format availability of this encyclopedia by subscription.—*Marion S. Muskiewicz, Science Librarian, University of Massachusetts Lowell*

Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora: Origins, Experiences, and Culture. Ed. by M. A. Ehrlich. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 3 vols. alkaline \$295 (ISBN 978-1-85109-873-6).

Editor M. A. Ehrlich's *Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora: Origins, Experiences, and Culture* debuts as the first encyclo-