

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

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.

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*