

SOURCES

white photographs, maps, and other images complement the text. Nevertheless, the encyclopedia would have provided readers with an even richer experience if it contained additional supplementary material such as a general chronology or selected historical documents.

Other works examining American history that are aimed at young audiences include John A. Garraty's *The Young Reader's Companion to American History* (Houghton Mifflin, 1994) and David C. King's *Children's Encyclopedia of American History* (DK, 2003). These works differ significantly from the *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History*. King's one-volume book encompasses the years 1000–2002, which is less than the coverage in *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History*. Additionally, King's work is chronologically arranged into eighteen chapters that are further subdivided into visually striking two-page spreads that focus on specific historical themes and provide relatively brief treatment of topics in comparison to *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History*. Like King's encyclopedia, Garraty's work is a single-volume text. It is similar to *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History* in that it contains alphabetically arranged articles. There is some overlap in coverage between the two works; however, unlike *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History*, Garraty's text has articles dedicated to major sports such as baseball and basketball and social issues such as marriage and poverty. Finally, Garraty's work contains richer supplementary material, including the texts of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence. On the other hand, neither Garraty nor King's work is as current or wide-ranging as *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History*, which is recommended for middle and high school libraries.—Michelle Hendley, *Reference Librarian, State University of New York, College at Oneonta*

World and Its Peoples: The Americas. World and Its Peoples. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2008. 11 vols. alkaline \$499.95 (ISBN 978-0-7614-7802-7).

This geographical encyclopedia is the third part of a series that will eventually provide coverage of all regions of the world. The current set of eleven volumes focuses on North, South, and Central America as well as the Caribbean Islands and Greenland. The volumes provide a very solid but general overview of the nations and territories of the Americas. For readers with a lower-level research need, it compares favorably to the *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations: Americas* (Gale, 2004) as well as the *South America, Central America and the Caribbean* (Routledge, 2008) volume of the annual Europa Regional Surveys when the myriad maps and photos are factored into the analysis. However, the latter two works are more appropriate for scholarly, college-level research, providing more detailed data and categories of information. *World and Its Peoples* presents statistics in an easy-to-browse format and uses text effectively to make the subjects more approachable. Another feature that sets it apart from the others is its lengthy overviews of the region and subregions as well as the context for each nation's place therein.

Each of the first ten volumes (the eleventh is an index volume) represents a discrete subregion or closely related

grouping of countries, for example “Brazil and the Guiana Coast” or “Northern Caribbean.” Within the profile of each country there is an introduction (a basic statistical overview and brief chronology) and the sections “Government,” “Modern History,” “Cultural Expression,” “Daily Life” (including profiles of major cities), and “Economy.” The amount of information provided and additional subcategories vary widely between profiles.

The editors missed an opportunity to bring to light information on often neglected topics from lesser known countries, preferring instead to focus on economic behemoths such as the United States and Canada, which together make up nearly a third of the work. Similarly, a preference was shown toward territories under the dominion of the United States. Except for Puerto Rico and the other U.S. territories, territories that are dependents of sovereign nations received only brief overviews. These territories are all very distinct from their mother nations and should have been fully profiled in recognition of their unique cultures and histories.

An additional area that should have received proper attention was a true ethnic breakdown of populations, especially with regard to indigenous peoples. With very few exceptions, such as Guatemala, the editors chose to use the generic term Amerindian and European as opposed to identifying the specific groups or country of origin when describing ethnic populations. Once again, it seems a missed opportunity to educate and provide broader historical context.

Given the intended audience, this reference set is recommended only for high schools and public libraries.—Brent D. Singleton, *Reference Librarian, California State University, San Bernardino*

We are sad to announce the loss of David Fagerstrom, who passed away on December 10, 2008 at the age of 59. David was Faculty Director of the Science Library at University of Colorado, Boulder, and a regular reviewer for this column. His contributions to Reference & User Services Quarterly were recognized at the 2008 RUSA Awards Ceremony. He will be missed.

Professional Materials

Karen Antell
Editor

Answers to the Health Questions People Ask in Libraries. By Laura Townsend Kane, Rozalynd P. McConaughy, Steven Patrick Wilson, and David L. Townsend. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2008. 278p. paper \$65 (ISBN 1-55570-642-8).

For any reference book to be useful, good organization is vital, a task that is particularly difficult when dealing with consumer health information. The authors' intent is for this book to be useful anywhere that consumer health questions

might occur, which makes it even more important for it to be well organized, as the range of possible audiences is vast.

Here, this work meets its aim. It is clear that both a librarian and a physician are among the book's authors—the physician cognizant of the intended audience, and the librarian shaping the book's structure and organization. The book exudes a down-to-earth, readable tone; in fact, it was the authors' intent to “combine the authority of a physician with the clear, casual writing style that the layperson can easily understand” (xv).

The book is organized into six major chapters, each comprising information relating to its broad topic, such as family health or major health concerns. In essence, this work provides portals, or stepping-stones, that make it easy for readers to get started in a logical and natural way. Major points, concepts, and questions are highlighted throughout the chapters, and breaks between chapter concepts are well delineated. In addition, the table of contents is a good aid, steering readers directly to the information for which they are looking.

Chapters are well stocked with additional resources that follow important concepts. Further, the end of each chapter offers an “Ask the Experts” section, noting the appropriate type of healthcare professionals to consult for more information about chapter content. A unique feature that makes this work stand out is its glossary of experts, the purpose of which is to direct and supplement readers with access to resources to help them locate healthcare providers.

Unlike other works, such as *Answering Consumer Health Questions* (Spatz, 2008), this work leans more toward the consumer than the information professional, but it is still replete with additional resources that readers may consult on their own or with the aid of their librarian. In this sense, the work is unique; without a doubt, it will serve as a good resource for consumers, librarians, and healthcare professionals seeking a tool with which to direct their patrons as well as patients seeking healthcare information.—*Mark Hopkins, Library Technology Manager, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City*

Books and Beyond: The Greenwood Encyclopedia of New American Reading. Ed. by Kenneth Womack. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 1292p. cloth \$399.95 (ISBN 978-0-313-33738-3).

In the United States today, the huge number of available fiction books and genres can seem overwhelming for the average reader. *Books and Beyond* is a resource for those interested in learning more about what is being published in the United States or delving deeper into a genre of fiction with which they are already familiar. Its purpose is to give an overview of the nature of contemporary American literature by providing the reader with descriptions of genres, major authors in each genre, and other relevant information. This four-volume set achieves this purpose by describing more than seventy areas, from academic fiction to zines, in a way that is both scholarly and accessible.

Each alphabetically arranged entry contains a definition of the genre; a brief history; discussions on trends, contexts,

and reception; and selected authors. Each entry ends with a bibliography of sources for further reading, and the fourth volume includes a list of contemporary authors by genre.

Books and Beyond compiles information about multiple genres in an uncommon way. By giving background information on each area rather than simply listing recommended authors and titles, the editor aims higher than a simple readers' advisory guide. This will be useful for readers looking to expand their knowledge of a particular genre, but, since its readers' advisory capacities are underdeveloped, this publication may be of limited usefulness. This encyclopedia could benefit from a more detailed bibliography of books from each genre to increase its utility, as well as more obvious, easier-to-see headings within each section. As it stands, the target audience and effectiveness of this set seem somewhat unclear.

This encyclopedia is appropriate for public, high school, and college libraries that have a strong interest in literary research or genre fiction.—*Katy Herrick, Library Associate, Dallas (Tex.) Public Library*

Information Literacy Meets Library 2.0. Ed. by Peter Godwin and Jo Parker. London: Facet, 2008. 200p. cloth \$110 (ISBN 978-1-85604-637-4).

Over the last several years, numerous texts have explored Library 2.0 from a variety of angles. These treatments of emerging technology development and its attendant service philosophies tend to feature introductory explorations of dynamic tools as well as case studies outlining their practical application in specific working contexts. While the genre is replete with book-length treatments from a wide range of specializations, an underdeveloped area has been the intersection of Library 2.0 and information literacy instruction. *Information Literacy Meets Library 2.0* features the work of nineteen contributors in a series of chapters that provide a beginner-to-intermediate-level treatment of dynamic technologies and their effect on information literacy and library instruction. Geared generally toward teaching librarians and not intended exclusively for those working in academic libraries, this volume will prove most useful for those considering how dynamic technologies might be applied in virtual or physical classrooms.

Information Literacy Meets Library 2.0 provides a wide-ranging outlook on participatory technologies and their potential to affect information literacy instruction. Its four thematic sections cover tools such as podcasting, social networking, mashups, tagging, gaming, and virtual worlds from the perspective of pedagogy, practice, and future developments in teaching technology and student literacy. Standout chapters include Brian Kelley's concise and useful introduction to the various shades of Library 2.0 and Sheila Webber's theoretical justification for including Web 2.0 technologies in library and information science education. A section of case studies showcasing successful 2.0 applications provides practical insight into how information literacy instruction might be enhanced by user-generated and collaborative applications such as Wikipedia, Flickr, and YouTube. The book draws on