of the encyclopedia appears thorough, evidenced by the fact that most of the entries do not correspond to main entries (which are boldfaced).

Stephen J. Farenga and Daniel Ness’ Encyclopedia of Education and Human Development (M. E. Sharpe, 2005) also includes valuable sections devoted to social and political issues in education, as well as twenty-five biographies. But the entries are not arranged alphabetically, and, overall, the encyclopedia takes a more theoretical approach to education. Though Rebecca Marlow-Ferguson’s World Education Encyclopedia: A Survey of Educational Systems Worldwide (Gale, 2002) includes detail on hundreds of countries, the content focuses on the architecture of nations’ educational systems, rather than how those systems interface with countries’ surrounding cultures. The closest handbook (from a topical standpoint) to the present work is Maureen T. Hallinan’s Handbook of the Sociology of Education (Kluwer Academic, 2000). It is balanced between theory and practice, yet lacks the unique topical coverage of Provenzo’s work. Encyclopedia of the Social and Cultural Foundations of Education effectively distills important aspects of American sociology and culture in education. Recommended for academic libraries.—Eric S. Petersen, Assistant Director of Library Services, Dana College, Blair, Nebraska


Although there is no shortage of world history single- or multi-volume titles already available, the folks at Facts On File have still managed to create a set that could be of use for some libraries. Written to align closely with the College Board’s AP World History course, this general reference tool aims to cover the “entire range of human history in chronological order” (vii).

The set consists of seven volumes, of which the final is a collection of primary documents and a master index. Each of the first six volumes covers a specified chronological period, with entries for each period listed in alphabetical order. Each volume also includes an introductory section that gives an overview of five major themes common to each period: food production, scientific and technological developments, social and class relations, trade and cultural exchanges, and urbanization and warfare. The periods covered by each volume of course vary greatly, with the first covering almost nine thousand years as compared to volume 6, which covers only half a century.

Entries include important people, events, cultures, and happenings, as well as more general concepts (for example, The Green Revolution). The entries are straightforward and written without lingo or the assumption of existing knowledge by the user. Both of those characteristics should help the set succeed in reaching its intended target audience, most of whom are not likely to be on the same academic level as the contributors. Cross-references are clearly organized, and many entries include suggestions for further reading. For anyone interested in learning more about a given subject, these are an excellent inclusion. The length of the entries varies from about one-third of a page to several pages for larger subjects such as Native Americans. Some encyclopedias suffer from making entries on less significant topics too short to be of any use for the user, but this set avoids that problem.

The indexing is well done, and includes not only primary entries but any other subjects that might be included in each entry. It is important to note that the index for each volume is specific to that volume, so users of the set would be well served to consult the master index if they’re not completely sure which volume they should be consulting. Each volume also includes a lengthy resource guide.

The final volume is one that may prove of both use and interest. There are a number of primary document sources available, but the large historical range covered in this volume makes it valuable. Starting with the Code of Hammurabi and continuing through to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the volume not only offers sources for research but is an overall enjoyable read for anyone interested in historical sources.

This set should prove valuable, especially to high school libraries and some public libraries. The price may be high for some prospective purchasers, but this is a valuable tool given the scope and the reputation of the publisher. More comprehensive than a work like Oxford’s single-volume A Dictionary of World History, 2nd ed. (2006) and similar efforts, this is an outstanding work. For those libraries in need of a new multivolume world history set, Encyclopedia of World History is an excellent choice.—Craig Shufelt, Director, Fort McMurray Public Library, Alberta


The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Latino Literature, edited by Nicolás Kanellos (professor at the University of Houston and founder of both the literary journal The Americas Review and the Hispanic publishing house Arte Publico Press), consists of three volumes that are part of the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage project begun in 1990. While the project itself focuses on authors writing from colonial times up to 1960, this encyclopedia provides coverage of Latino literature through the present day. In this work, “Latino” refers to literature produced by authors born in the United States who are of Hispanic origin as well as authors of Hispanic origin who were born in other countries and eventually settled in the United States.

The more than seven hundred signed essays in this encyclopedia are devoted to authors, associations, ethnic and national literatures, genres, historical events, movements, publishers, magazines, and literary topics. For author entries, birth and death dates and other relevant bio-bibliographical, literary, and cultural information are given, and most authors