

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*

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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.”