

SOURCES

sociologists that are experts in the literature about and the teaching of courses on death and dying, is a literate and interdisciplinary overview of approximately 330 topics relevant to this human condition. Their editorial board is equally accomplished, as are the entry writers. Many disciplines are represented in the wide ranging entries and the sixteen topical groupings.

Human experience is emphasized, with many contemporary concepts and issues included. The categories include the following: conceptualizing death (eschatology); its place in art and culture (photography of the dead); causes (karoshi); coping mechanisms (memorial quilts); cross-cultural perspectives (death care industry); demography (life expectancy); disposition of the deceased (cryonics); funerals (cyberfunerals; “green” burials); legal matters (hate crimes and death threats); mass death (school shootings); process of dying (pediatric palliative care); religion (ghost dance); rituals (symbolic immortality); suicide, euthanasia, and homicide (honor killings); theories and concepts (good death); and unworldly entities and events (ghost photography). There are a few token medical issue entries (e.g. persistent vegetative state) but the emphasis is largely about how people act and think and feel about death.

This encyclopedia joins the many that have been published about death and dying, two of which are worth mentioning. Cassell’s *Encyclopedia of Death and Dying* (Facts on File, 2005) emphasizes definitions and includes many appendixes of related information. Another widely held work, the *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Death and Dying* (Thomson Gale, 2002) covers some of the topics found here, and complements the *Encyclopedia of Death and the Human Experience* by forming an expanded information source for student papers and general interest.

The breadth of entries and information within this work will provide the curious with many hours of reading and learning. The entry “Postself” is one example of how mind-expanding many of the entries are. It concisely discussed “who one is in the minds of others after you are dead” (816). This may not be something that is discussed or even contemplated, though most people hope to be remembered in a positive light. People may live on in memory through their works, by legal actions, in suicide notes, as an organ donor, by having children, or as part of the universe. Belief systems are important in this and in many of the concepts covered.

Each signed article is accompanied by “see also” references and a list of suggested further readings. An appendix of death-related websites includes organizations, foundations, and personal sites. This is followed by a more formal appendix of death-related organizations with complete contact information at the time of publication. As with all good reference works, this one has a detailed index that includes cross-references.

Libraries holding the other works mentioned should seriously consider *Encyclopedia of Death and the Human Experience*. It updates what is of interest to both professionals

and the general public about the human experience of death. Users will find well written, easy-to-read, authoritative information on many topics.—Linda Loos Scarth, retired reference librarian, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Encyclopedia of Giftedness, Creativity, and Talent. Ed. by Barbara A. Kerr. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2009. 2 vols. acid free \$375 (ISBN 978-1-4129-4971-2).

This two-volume encyclopedia includes more than 300 entries from 296 contributors in the fields of psychology and education. This set is written for educators, administrators, counselors, policymakers, and families to provide a framework for dealing with issues surrounding gifted education. Each volume begins with an alphabetical list of the articles for both volumes. Volume 1 includes a reader’s guide, which categorizes articles into thirteen topics, and volume 2 ends with a cumulative index.

The *Encyclopedia of Giftedness* provides for educators and counselors a number of practical articles that focus on best practices, program development, testing, curriculum design for different levels and subject areas, and counseling services for the gifted, creative, and talented. Theoretical discussions of issues such as creativity, intelligence, and neuroscience are also included.

Many entries in this reference work describe the vast spectrum of gifted, talented, and creative people. Examples range from entries for different types of abilities or talents in academic areas such as math, fine arts, and sciences; entries for special populations within the gifted classification, such as the “Twice Exceptional,” the “African-American Gifted,” or the “Very Young Gifted”; as well as the impact of culture and diversity on gifted education.

Some entries include historical perspectives while others, such as “Controversies in Gifted Education,” focus on currently debated areas in the field. The articles about inclusion and differentiation are representative of the types of articles provided in this encyclopedia. They include background information about the topics within the field of education, “Core Ideas,” information on both sides of the issue or controversy, and details on any strategies or research within gifted education. Each article therefore provides a balanced view of the topic described as well as a list of “see also” references to other applicable articles in the encyclopedia along with a further readings list pointing the reader to other important resources on the subject.

Comparable reference resources include Robert Sternberg’s *Encyclopedia of Human Intelligence* (Macmillan, 1994) and Cecil Reynolds and Elaine Fletcher-Janzen’s *Encyclopedia of Special Education* (Wiley, 2007). Although there is some overlap between the information included in these resources, the scope and perspectives are very different.

The *Encyclopedia Human Intelligence* devotes the majority of its pages to describing measures and theories of intelligence and cognitive science, with about 100 of its 1,175 pages

devoted to topics in education and educational psychology. Out of that, only 10 pages are devoted to descriptions of giftedness and programs for the gifted.

The *Encyclopedia of Special Education* includes articles such as “Counseling the Gifted and Talented,” “Gifted and Learning Disabilities,” and “Gifted Children and Reading,” thereby placing these issues within the larger context of special education. Articles such as “Inclusion” take on a much different meaning within the broader context of gifted education. Although the topic of inclusion (or “mainstreaming”) is similarly described in the *Encyclopedia of Special Education*, *The Encyclopedia of Human Intelligence*, and *The Encyclopedia of Giftedness*, the implications are very different. *The Encyclopedia of Giftedness* goes into further detail regarding the concept of inclusion within gifted education. There are very different challenges involved in meeting the needs of students with disabilities and gifted students within a regular classroom. The inclusive classroom may be too restrictive for the gifted student while not being intensive enough for students with disabilities.

I believe that these three resources are complementary and that educators, parents, counselors, and students would benefit from looking at this material within the narrow lens of gifted education as well as the wider lenses of special education and human intelligence.

The *Encyclopedia of Giftedness* is a unique, specialized resource entirely devoted to issues related to gifted, talented, and creative people. It is appropriate for mid-size academic libraries and larger public libraries.—Sarah Baker, *Education Librarian, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico*

The Encyclopedia of Global Warming Science and Technology. By Bruce E. Johansen. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2009. 2 vols. acid free \$175 (ISBN 978-0-313-37702-0).

Global warming is a fast-moving, hot field in publishing that presents a challenge to collection developers. The need to stay current with information appropriate for our consumers plays against developing limits in budgets. Johansen's latest work, *The Encyclopedia of Global Warming Science and Technology* has some existing competition on the shelf, including two of his earlier works: *The Global Warming Desk Reference* (Greenwood, 2002) and *Global Warming in the 21st Century* (Praeger, 2006). Moreover, there are some venerable works that are must-haves for the reference shelf. These include Goudie's two-volume *Encyclopedia of Global Change: Environmental Change and Human Society* (Oxford, 2002); its update, Cuff and Goudie's *The Oxford Companion to Global Change* (Oxford, 2009); and the new three-volume *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change* (Sage, 2008), edited by S. George Philander. The three-volume report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2007* (Cambridge, 2007), also is a workhorse on the shelves. Adding to the mix is the development of core monographs in the field, such as Steffen's *Global Change and the Earth System: A*

Planet Under Pressure (Springer, 2004) and treatments written expressly for nonspecialists, such as DiMento and Doughman's *Climate Change: What It Means for Us, Our Children, and Our Grandchildren* (MIT, 2007).

Johansen's offering contains 274 alphabetical entries. Entries range in length from half a page to several pages, with important concepts generally receiving lengthier coverage. All entries are accompanied by a reference list, which can vary widely in length. References tend to be secondary resources based on reports from heavy hitters in the newspaper world. References to the primary research literature are sometimes present, and sometimes references are made to reports from government websites that don't include a URL or other sufficient information for an untrained searcher to find. However, depending on the audience, the review of significant newspaper articles can be a great advantage. Using these sources, Johansen created lively, engaging entries that include numerous quotes that serve to tell the story to nonspecialists in a way that might be much more effective than the usual “scientific approach.” His reliance on newspaper reports brings the entries to a relatable level with the inclusion of local case studies or examples. He clearly has a mastery of both the research and popular literature that may be unmatched. The book culminates in a simply massive bibliography—ninety-five pages of single-spaced, small font entries. The work is light on illustrations, with just fifty “AP type” photos and just one graph showing the global temperature change from 1880 to 2000. As is standard in works of this type, there is an alphabetical list of entries at the beginning of each volume (without page numbers) and a synoptic guide to related topics. The guide to related topics is especially valuable in this volume for two reasons: First, there are noticeably few “see also” references. Second (and more positive), with the entries collocated into themes, the guide to related topics opens up the use of the volume beyond reference. In an academic setting, this work could easily and effectively be used to provide highly engaging, themed readings for undergraduate survey courses outside the sciences to introduce topics and stimulate discussion. The work is well indexed—the index is, in fact, the only effective way to get information on specific topics.

This new work by Johansen is somewhat derivative of his two earlier works. Some of the content is redundant. If libraries own either of the two earlier works (especially *Global Warming in the 21st Century*) this purchase might be optional. However, Johansen was rigorous and thorough in his use of updated information; many references are from the latter part of 2008. The audience for this work is clearly nonspecialists. It is optional for science libraries, as users there will be frustrated by the lack of equations, graphs, definitive definitions, and serious chemistry. However, these “deficiencies” are absolutely what will thrill other users in other types of libraries. The work is appropriate for high school libraries, public libraries, and academic libraries servicing undergraduate nonspecialists.—Deborah Carter Peoples, *Science Librarian, Hobson Science Library, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio.*