of providing its sources. For example, the Wikipedia entry for Lance Armstrong included ninety-nine references. Of course, this is not a systematic comparison, and Lance Armstrong is perhaps one of the more popular athletes to be profiled in *Great Athletes* and online. The inclusion of references would not only strengthen the argument for authority in printed reference materials like *Great Athletes* over online resources, but also facilitate more in-depth research as well.

In addition to online content, purchasers of the full twelve-volume set receive a cumulative indexes volume at no additional charge. This volume includes indexes by sport, date of birth, and country of origin; glossaries for every major sport covered in the set; and noteworthy fact listings, such as top hall of famers for each sport, websites for the organizing bodies, and major award winners in each sport.

Great Athletes is recommended for high school media centers and public libraries serving a young adult population. Only those academic libraries that support sports or sports history programs, or a curriculum that focuses on popular culture, will find this tool beneficial.—*Joseph A. Salem Jr., Head, Reference and Government Information Services, University Libraries, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio*

marked), several annotated bibliographies of both websites and books, and a number of good indexes. A comprehensive list of all the inventions occurs in the front of each volume—a nice touch. Only black-and-white illustrations are present, usually one per article, with the majority being a picture or depiction of the person.

Another work with the same title, *Inventors and Inventions* (Cavendish, 2008), in five volumes, features only 172 inventors, and targets young adult users as the main audience. Although its biographical material is briefer, the Cavendish set does provide more illustrations. *A to Z of Inventions and Inventors* (Smart Apple Media, 2008) with six volumes, targets an even younger audience. An earlier resource by Salem Press, *Inventions and Inventors* (2002), comprises two volumes arranged—in contrast to this new title—by invention. The 2010 work contains more historical and critical essays, and it focuses more on the inventors, their lives, and their work, as well as providing more detail overall.

Online access is available to purchasers of this work. An excellent purchase for schools and public libraries where this information is in high demand.—*Marion Muskiewicz, Head of Public Services Division, University of Massachusetts Lowell*

Inventors and Inventions. Ed. by Alvin K. Benson. Hackensack, N.J.: Salem, 2010. 4 vols. acid-free $395 (ISBN 978-1-587-65522-7).

This encyclopedia set adds to the Great Lives from History series from Salem Press begun in 2004, and it is meant to provide more detailed biographical information of historical figures. These four volumes cover 409 inventers and their most important inventions in extensive detail. Each essay gives in-depth information on the life and work of an inventor, along with a sidebar expanding on a particular invention and its place in history. These sidebars, concise and very well written, explain the invention in an easy-to-understand manner. Although mostly for high school and junior college students, the ease of understanding will attract additional users. Arrangement is alphabetical by inventor's name. Each three-to-four-page essay supplies a short annotated bibliography for further information on both inventor and invention. Inventors from all eras appear, from Aristotle (biological taxonomy) and Abbas ibn Firnas (glider) to Steve Jobs (Apple computer) and Katharine Burr Blodgett (Langmuir-Blodgett films). Familiar names abound (Thomas Edison, Archimedes, the Wright brothers), but many lesser-known individuals in specialized fields are encountered; for example, Richard Zsigmondy (ultramicroscope), Mary Anderson (windshield wiper), Philip Emeagwali (oil reservoir simulation, the precursor to supercomputing), Nolan Bushnell (Pong), and Otto Rohwedder (sliced bread). Inventors from thirty-six different countries appear, with more than half from the United States.

Volume 4 contains a number of important finding tools, including timelines of inventions, a list of about one thousand inventors and their inventions (those found in the set are

The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History. Ed. by Stanley N. Katz. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2009. 6 vols. alkaline $750 (ISBN 978-0-195-13405-6).

The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History is a major new reference work in international legal history. This unique encyclopedia synthesizes and integrates developments of legal systems around the world, providing the user with in-depth treatment in the following eight areas: ancient Greek law; ancient Roman law; Chinese law; English common law; Islamic law; medieval and post–medieval Roman law; South Asian, African, and Latin American law; and United States law. However, it should be noted that there is unequal treatment of legal topics. The editor-in-chief provides two reasons for the disparity in treatment. First, he has chosen to emphasize the areas where good scholarship is available, explaining that "existing scholarship in legal history is quite unevenly distributed as to geography and time periods" (xxiii). Second, he acknowledges that the audience for this work is "by definition English-speaking, [and] some bias in favor of the United States and the other countries in the English legal tradition is appropriate" (xxiii). Nonetheless, this encyclopedia would be an ideal reference work for those researching comparative issues in law, politics, history, and religion.

The six-volume encyclopedia contains 621 alphabetically arranged topical and country-specific entries and more than 350 black-and-white illustrations. Additionally, select topics are further divided into subtopics. For example, the entry "Chinese Law, History of" is divided into seventeen subtopics. This work also features expertly annotated up-to-date references at the end of each entry. Moreover, there are detailed cross-references directing the user to appropriate topical headings. For example, a user searching for information on

SOURCES

Confucianism is directed to "Chinese Law, History of, *subentry* on Eastern Zhou, Warring States (464–221 BCE), and Qin State and Empire (c. 350–206 BCE). Finally, the encyclopedia features a topical outline, a case index, and a 265-page general index.

Stanley N. Katz, the editor-in-chief, is a lecturer with the rank of Professor of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He has authored and edited numerous articles and books. The area editors are affiliated with academic institutions, and the contributors are alphabetically listed in a directory that further details academic affiliations and area of authorship.

The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History is recommended for advanced undergraduate and graduate studies in law, politics, history, and religion.—*Jacquelyn N. McCloud, J.D., Student, School of Library and Information Science, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio*

Poverty and Government in America: A Historical Encyclopedia. By Jyotsna Sreenivasan. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 2009. 2 vols. alkaline $195 (ISBN 1-59884-168-8).

Jyotsna Sreenivasan's two-volume work on poverty and its intersections with government of all levels in the United States is encyclopedic in both name and format, but the result is very much that of an individual's vision. Rather than an edited collection of entries penned by a variety of field experts, the author, with a background in English literature, has composed the entirety of the text.

Four introductory essays—each addressing poverty in the context of local, state, federal, and tribal governments—provide a history and sociology of poverty for the uninitiated and are helpful with intuiting and understanding the subject choices for the encyclopedic entries that make up a majority of the work. Sreenivasan does well to condense a great deal of historical research into these manageable partitions. She describes how concern for poverty by government progressed from one of municipal concern to that of federal policy. Along the way we learn that such cities as Kansas City, Missouri, had already established laws that would later be used as models for the Civil Works Administration program. She also shows that the first forays into poverty relief at the state level were aimed at the "transient poor," for whom localities had little to no regard, which resonates with the modern controversy over entitlements to illegal immigrants. She also shows that it was not until the establishment of President Roosevelt's New Deal programs in response to economic disruption—another controversy with modern overtones—that the federal government became actively involved in poverty relief. She also illustrates via such examples as the "Quincy Report" that the earliest official government assessments of poverty set tones that continue to this day by laying blame at the feet of the poor for their own condition, be it the result of character traits, habituation, or even the provision of relief itself.

The set also includes "Chronology of the Government

and Poverty," a tool covering major events from the 1500s to 2008. The timeline is perhaps reflective of the author's English background and includes event descriptions that are of paragraph length as often as not. Those looking for a more concise chronology of poverty-related events would be better served by Russell M. Lawson and Benjamin A. Lawson's *Poverty in America: An Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2008).

The encyclopedia entries in *Poverty and Government in America* generally have a narrative tone similar to that of the introductory essays. They are rarely longer than two or three pages, are liberally supported by photographic illustrations, and are each followed by "see also" references, lists of sources with basic bibliographic information, and (where relevant) separate lists of related websites. Another feature of the entries that distinguishes this set from the *Poverty in America* and (to a lesser extent) Gwendolyn Mink and Alice O'Connor's *Poverty in the United States: An Encyclopedia of History, Politics and Policy* (ABC-Clio, 2004) is the inclusion of primary documents. For example, the entry for the "Quincy Report" includes a lengthy excerpt of the original source document with enough bibliographic information to track down the original if so desired.

For a topic that may appear on the surface to be niche in scope, Sreenivasan ultimately delivers a useful and broadly applicable reference work. Those libraries seeking their first U.S. poverty–related subject encyclopedia may be better served by the Mink and O'Connor's text, but those academic libraries with larger budgets, or those wanting to supplement Mink and O'Connor with a more recent publication, will not be disappointed.—*Chris G. Hudson. Assistant Law Librarian for Serials and Government Documents, MacMillan Law Library, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia*

QFinance: The Ultimate Resource. London: Bloomsbury, 2009. 2,160p. acid free $250 (ISBN 978-1-849-30000-1).

According to Bloomsbury's publicity handout, the goal of *QFinance* is "to be the ultimate, practical reference tool for the financial sector." This very large volume (2,160 pages) is a print desk reference book accompanied by a website—www.qfinance.com. The handout also states that the *QFinance* is "the brainchild of the Qatar Financial Centre Authority, the business arm of the government of Qatar." The international flavor of the information is well-represented here, probably because of this collaboration.

QFinance is organized into eight sections plus an index. Sections 1 and 2 are divided again into nine themes: corporate balance sheets and cash flow, governance and business ethics, insurance and financial markets including macroeconomics, making and managing investments, mergers and acquisitions, operations management, raising finance, regulation and compliance, and strategy and performance. The first section, "Best Practice," contains essays written by leading finance writers and educators who offer practical advice and summarize the best thinking on myriad financial issues, such as risk management, profitability analysis, and leveraged buyouts. Grouped