under each theme are several two-to-five-page essays about various issues related to that theme. Each essay begins with an executive summary of the issue. The author then explains the issue, defines the terms, suggests ways to perform the best practice in dealing with the issue, and concludes with a brief bibliography indicating books, articles, or websites for more information. Sometimes a case study is included. Section 2 contains checklists and step-by-step guides relating to the same broad themes and subthemes that were discussed in the first section. Section 2 also has very good explanations of more than one hundred ratios and calculations used in finance.

Ensuing sections are “Finance Thinkers and Leaders” (57 profiles of practitioners of modern finance from Prince Al-Walid bin Talal to Robert Zoellick) and “Finance Library” (126 digests of important finance books, which include summaries of the work, its importance to the field, author background, and further reading). Other sections profile 102 country profiles and 26 industries. A two-hundred-page section, “Finance Information Sources,” briefly summarizes books, journals, websites, and organizations, including contact information, organized into sixty subject areas. These sources are not included in the index by author or title, but can be found there under topic. Section 7 contains more than two thousand quotations, with the source and date arranged according to subject. For example, there are three quotations about women in business: one from 1801, another from 1946, and another from Jill Barad in 2000. An author index in this section includes very brief biographical information. The final section is a dictionary of more than nine thousand international business and finance terms, abbreviations, acronyms, and finance and business jargon. Mini-essays explain more complex concepts, such as capitalization ratio. A twenty-three-page index completes the volume.

This is a huge book—more than seven pounds, according to the publisher’s representative. Although it contains an enormous amount of information of all kinds, its bulk works against it. The pages are flimsy and could easily be torn. In a library (or perhaps anywhere) I would put it on a dictionary stand for ease of use. And its accompanying website, www.qfinance.com, seems to include the same information, is easy to navigate, and promises updated information. The site is available as part of the book and is, also according to the publisher’s representative, free to the user. Both the print volume and the website are beautifully organized so that a search of business ethics, for example, will find a best practice essay, a checklist, summaries of the best research in the area, recommended books or articles on the subject, quotations, and the meaning of terms associated with the concept. Contributors are well known and the material is meticulously explained.

There is some discussion of regulatory terms, particularly in the industry and country sections. Because the book is international in scope and comprehensive in subject coverage, it would prove very useful to any business library as well as beginning practitioners in the finance arena and, of course, students. For the price, the user receives a compendium of different kinds of knowledge on almost any finance topic or question.—Carol Krismann, Business Librarian, University of Colorado, Boulder


Navigability being a key component of large reference works’ quality, Salem Health: Psychology & Mental Health shines. The encyclopedia comprises 5 volumes and 593 articles (listed alphabetically in every volume) ranging in length from one to eight pages. Its scope is the full breadth of psychology, including key concepts, phenomena, measurement tools, and researchers. Since its last incarnation in 2003, 159 articles have been newly written, and 46 have been significantly revised. As should be the case for a new psychology encyclopedia, events and trends of the past decade, including economic and terrorist catastrophes, the growth of reality television and the Internet, and environmental conscientiousness are reflected in articles’ content. Among the more intriguing topics are articles on air rage, behavioral economics, biracial heritage and mental health, midlife crisis, and retirement.

Each article includes delineations of type of psychology (from nineteen categories) and applicable fields of study (from sixty-one categories); several types and fields of study may be associated with a single article. The fields of study affixed to each article presumably correspond to the sixty-one categories forming a category index appearing at the end of each volume, but careful inspection reveals some fields of study attached to articles that are not listed in this index. Editor Nancy Piotrowski should have chosen only one of these categorization schemas to use. All but one of the “Type of Psychology” headings are included within the category index, making the former labels seem unnecessary. The articles themselves read at the level of an upper-division college text, each ending with sources for additional study and cross-references. Visuals are sparse, but those included are good. Volume 5 contains a master subject index and a personages index. Preceding the indexes, appendices include a glossary of some six hundred terms; a Website directory; a mediagraphy, including films and television programs that reference psychological phenomena; a list of organizations and support groups; a pharmaceutical list; biographies of seventy-five prominent psychologists; and important U.S. court cases. Listings in the website directory include paragraph descriptions; many sites are more popular-interest than research-focused. The support-groups section ends with a listing of hotlines; this should have been highlighted in the complete list of contents.

A fourth edition of the four-volume Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology (Wiley, 2010), priced at $600, is being released as of this writing. The eight-volume, $795 Encyclopedia of Psychology (American Psychological Association, 2000) lacks the Salem Health finding aids (such as a listing of all articles), but does have an extremely thorough index.

Do not judge Salem Health: Psychology & Mental Health

The subtitle is a bit mystifying, as such a theme is not developed, but the organization and content of this set recommend it as a helpful reference resource. The wars fought by the United States are discussed in ten chronological chapters, with a few chapters covering multiple wars closely related in time and location. Each chapter has three sections. The first is an extensive essay about U.S. leadership in the war. The second is made up of shorter, chronological essays about the leadership decisions in major battles or campaigns. Finally, there are brief, alphabetically arranged biographies of the top military and civilian leaders.

The biographies are a distinguishing feature of these volumes. The civilians include not only the presidents, but such figures as Warren N. Austin, who was the U.S. representative to the United Nations during the Korean War, which the United States fought by leading a U.N. coalition. Even essayist Henry David Thoreau, who was a leading opponent of the Mexican-American War, earns two pages of text and a photograph. A problem with the format is that some leaders, such as Jefferson Davis and Douglas MacArthur, have two biographies emphasizing their leadership in different wars, and there is no cross-reference. Thus a user must be careful to use the index.

Editor Tucker’s project differs considerably from John E. Jessup and Louise B. Ketz’s Encyclopedia of the American Military (Scribner’s, 1994), which features numerous essays on broad military themes with little emphasis on leaders.

Maurice Matloff’s American Military History (Combined Books, 1996) gives more attention to military development between wars than Tucker’s set does, and it offers more maps, but it doesn’t have biographies, and its chapters are organized traditionally. Neither of the older sets has the detailed analysis of wartime leadership that the new set includes.

U.S. Leadership in Wartime is light fare as a reference source about the actual fighting, but its biographies and its essays on leadership deserve a place in larger academic and public libraries and in collections that concentrate on military history.—Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana


This five-volume set is a revised edition of Zondervan’s popular Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, updated to reflect new scholarship “to serve a new generation” (v). Under the direction of revision editor Moisés Silva, a now-retired professor of biblical studies at Westminster College and Westminster and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminaries, the new, revised Encyclopedia of the Bible presents over more than 7,500 articles dealing with theological and biblical topics written by more than 250 contributors from international, mainly Christian institutions. The five-volume set includes hundreds of brief articles on new topics, newly commissioned in-depth articles, and older articles that have been totally or substantially overhauled to reflect new scholarship. The illustrations are now in full color, and there are ample cross-references within the text of the articles to other topics covered in the encyclopedia. Bibliographic references are found both throughout the text and at the end of some entries. A comprehensive index is lacking, which is a detriment given the size and scope of the text.

Silva explains that the “new edition seeks to make the material more accessible to a broad readership” (vi). Because of this, foreign script is limited to initial parenthetical information at the beginning of articles, and Goodrick-Kohlenberger numbers are given for readers not proficient in Biblical languages. One confusing aspect of the new edition is authorship; some articles are signed but many are not, and the differences between the older and the revised articles are not readily apparent unless one is very familiar with the original edition. The main biblical edition used in this revised version is the New International (NIV), which is a departure from the first edition, which relied mainly on the King James and Revised Standard (RSV) texts. As the NIV is published by Zondervan, this is not unexpected, but it is a departure from many scholarly works in biblical studies, which tend to favor the RSV or NRSV (New Revised Standard Version).

Unchanged from the earlier edition is the encyclopedia’s focus, which takes a conservative Christian critical and theological position. While authors of articles state their own conclusions, they must be founded on what Merrill C. Tenney, the original editor, calls the “fundamental conviction of the veracity of the biblical record” (x). This can be quite jolting for scholars used to a more theologically balanced critique. For instance, the entry on the Bible describes sacred books of other religions, and then baldly declares that “there are several features that distinguish all these sacred books from the Bible and show the superiority of the latter” (599). Statements like this may be problematic for readers who do not come from a conservative Christian background. Another issue is the authorship of the Pentateuch, particularly Genesis, which is attributed to Moses in the Encyclopedia, as according to Christian theology, but which is almost universally held to be the product of multiple, non-Mosaic authors by secular biblical scholars.

For Christian families, preachers, students, and scholars of the Bible, the Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible will undoubtedly be an extremely useful resource for Christian theology and biblical interpretation. For others, particularly those of other faiths, the encyclopedia may reflect a particu-