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