

SOURCES

of authors who are widely known and anthologized, with information duplicated in print and online resources, such as Contemporary Authors and Dictionary of Literary Biography (both by Gale). This is still a good choice for libraries serving high school, community college, and undergraduate institutions.—Katharine A. Webb, *Librarian, The Ohio State University, Columbus*

Gale Encyclopedia of Senior Health. Ed. by Jacqueline L. Longe. San Francisco: Gale, 2009. 5 vols. acid free \$650 (ISBN 978-414-40383-0).

This source exists to inform readers of the wide variety of topics that affect the aging body. This encyclopedia set was created with the assistance of six advisory board members from the medical community. This first edition consists of five volumes. The entries are listed in alphabetical order. There are more than six hundred entries that cover not just diseases that affect the aging body but also topics outside of medical diagnoses, such as transportation issues, housing options, maintaining mental acuity, the role of caregivers, nutrition and exercise guidelines, and different types of insurance.

This encyclopedia set covers every major body system; these entries constitute more than 50 percent of the material. The major categories included are “Disease and Conditions,” “Tests and Procedures,” “Drugs, Herbs, and Vitamins,” “Nutrition, Exercise, and Diet,” “Recovery and Rehabilitation,” “Professions,” “Devices/Tools,” and “Aging and Senior Issues.” All entries contained in this work are standardized, making finding information easy. The medical entries all include the definition of the condition, a description, a list of symptoms, treatment options, and questions to ask a doctor. The *Gale Encyclopedia of Senior Health* also contains more than 370 color photographs, illustrations, and tables.

This work provides ready-reference information for many aspects of senior health. It is very easy to understand and to use. The inclusion of topics outside of medical issues makes this a well-rounded, complete resource for issues relating to the aging body as well as the aging population. This also is a great reference for those caring for members of the aging population.

In comparison to James E. Birren’s *Encyclopedia of Aging* (Elsevier, 2007), the source being reviewed does not contain as much detail. For example, the *Encyclopedia of Aging* devotes more than twelve pages to breast cancer, whereas the *Gale Encyclopedia of Senior Health* has just more than six pages on that topic. Further comparison with the same topic shows that Kyriakos S. Markides’ *Encyclopedia of Health & Aging* (Sage, 2007) does not even list breast cancer as an entry but gives it a few paragraphs under the topic “Cancer, Common Types of” (89). In comprehensiveness, the *Gale Encyclopedia of Senior Health* appears to fall between these two other works. The *Encyclopedia of Aging* provides more detail and is intended for use by both students and research professionals. The *Gale Encyclopedia of Senior Health* was written with ready reference in mind, as entries are brief and offer

more consumer health type information.

Reference departments in public libraries, especially those with a heavily used consumer health department, would benefit from including the *Gale Encyclopedia of Senior Health* as part of their collections. This work would also be of use for undergraduates in academic libraries offering majors in the social sciences as a quick reference, or as a starting point for a research paper.—Mina Chercourt, *Unit Leader, Database Maintenance, Grasselli Library and Breen Learning Center, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio*

Great Athletes. Ed. by the Editors of the Salem Press. Hackensack, N.J.: Salem, 2009. 12 vols. \$1,020 (ISBN 978-1-587-65473-2).

Salem Press has produced a noteworthy new reference work in its twelve-volume set, *Great Athletes*. Although its content, coverage, and indexing makes the set a worthwhile addition to most reference collections, it is the great lengths to which the publisher has gone to add value for purchasing libraries that make it stand out. Institutions that purchase the entire set (each volume is available for individual purchase) are given unlimited on-site and remote access to the content online. Purchasing institutions also receive a poster featuring thirty of the athletes profiled in the set. The poster not only promotes the set but points patrons to an online quiz that asks them to identify athletes by their photographs.

These value-added services make good use of mixed-media reference materials, and seem like a response by the publisher to the fact that much of this content is available on free websites. Of course, the true value in any online reference material is bringing authoritative and audience-appropriate content together. *Great Athletes* does just that. It offers entries on more than 1,400 athletes in a variety of sports. The set focuses on sports of interest in the United States. Three volumes are dedicated to Olympic sports, two volumes are dedicated to each football and baseball, another is dedicated entirely to basketball, and significant coverage is provided for golf, tennis, boxing, soccer, racing, and individual sports.

Athletes were selected on the basis of whether their achievements made them household names in North America. Each entry includes a black-and-white photograph (the online version includes color photographs in many cases) and a one-thousand-word essay on the athlete providing a brief overview of his or her early life, the road to excellence, his or her emergence as a champion, and their later life story. Additional readings are provided as well. Tables highlighting major accomplishments also are provided. For the volumes focusing on athletes in team sports, these tables include major career statistics.

The entries are straightforward, concise, and offer a good amount of information for the general reader. They serve as not only a good biographical reference for the athletes covered, but as a good place to get started for more in-depth research. Although the entries do include additional readings, they do not include references. For all the questions surrounding its authority, Wikipedia often does a better job

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

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 inventors 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

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

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