

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