

SOURCES

“Thematic List of Entries” provides access to entries based on profession and gender. *Key Figures* also includes an “Entries by Region” index and four black-and-white maps.

Many libraries may already own Joseph R. Strayer’s (ed.) *Dictionary of the Middle Ages* (Scribner, 1982–1989), which does provide entries for many of the individuals included in *Key Figures*. However, the latter source has made an admirable attempt to include entries on people for whom there is little biographical information, but who contributed significantly to medieval culture. As a result, *Key Figures* includes entries on many women not included in Scribner’s *Dictionary*—for example, the eleventh-century poets Qasmūna Bint Ismā’īl, “the first known Jewish woman writer on the Iberian Peninsula” (549), and Wallādah Bint Al-Mustafki, famous for her panegyric, satirical, and love poems. In addition, *Key Figures* sometimes provides lengthier, more in-depth articles on better known female historical figures—for example, the English mystic writer Julian of Norwich and the Carolingian Renaissance poet Marie de France.

Key Figures provides a single-volume, handy source for students, general readers, and scholars and is highly recommended for public and academic libraries, especially those who do not own all volumes of the Routledge Encyclopedias of the Middle Ages series or Scribner’s *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*.—Eileen Oliver, Assistant Professor, San Antonio College Library, Texas

Medicine, Health, and Bioethics: Essential Primary Sources. Ed. by K. Lee Lener and Brenda Wilmoth Lerner. Social Issues Primary Sources Collection. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Thomson Gale, 2006. 513p. alkaline \$110 (ISBN 1-4144-0623-1).

Part of the Social Issues Primary Sources Collection series, this valuable and well-organized reference provides ready access to primary documents and first-hand accounts focusing on important milestones, ethical issues, and controversies in medicine and health from the nineteenth, twentieth, and current centuries. Using these materials, the editors show the progression of science and advances in medicine and their corresponding impact on society from the industrial age to modern times.

The 161 entries in this compilation include a variety of primary resources, such as report extracts, book excerpts, journal, magazine, and newspaper articles, legal decisions, speeches, photographs, press releases, artworks, and e-mail messages. Each entry is about a different primary resource. Even though the coverage is multifaceted, this well-designed book is easy-to-use because the entries follow a consistent and uniform format.

Each entry identifies the type, byline, date, and source of the primary source, along with brief biographical information about the author or photographer, and important contextual and background information. The primary source itself is wholly or partly reproduced, together with a conclusion that further explains the significance of the source in the history of medicine. There is a “Further Resources” section, many of

which are Web sites accessed as recently as 2005 and 2006. All entries make effective use of shading, bold type, and headings.

The work is organized into eight broad topics: “Biomedical Science,” “Clinical Medicine,” “War and Medicine,” “Industry and Medicine,” “Public Health,” “Wellness and Health,” “Alternative Medicine,” and “Bioethics.” The primary sources contained in each section progress in sequence from the 1800s to more current dates, including entries focusing on events from 2004 and 2005. In addition to a formal introduction examining the relationship between social issues and medical science, the work offers a guide to using an entry and an explanation of the proper use and purpose of primary resources. Additional features are a chronology of important events in medical history, a list of the advisors and contributors along with their academic credentials and affiliations, and a multi-page list of acknowledgements. The work ends with an extensive listing of “Sources Consulted” and an index.

Interesting and eye-opening current entries include a journal article about telemedicine using wireless communication systems, a newspaper article outlining long-term disaster response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and an e-mail describing the Tulane Hospital evacuation during Hurricane Katrina. An impressive older source is a 1981 journal article excerpt about a mysterious disease now called AIDS, which is accompanied by another primary source, a photograph of a weakened Ugandan HIV patient.

The editors clearly state that the work is not comprehensive, but it was disappointing that not a single blog or wiki was used as an example of a primary source. It is well documented that blogs and wikis often provide real-time, first-hand accounts, especially during natural disasters, when other communication methods are unavailable.

The editors’ goal with this work was to generate interest and bolster further investigation into the subjects. This well-written work fulfills this goal and is a good choice for biomedical and medical history academic reference collections.—Caroline Geck, Librarian, Kean University, Union, New Jersey

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Children’s Literature. Ed. by Jack Zipes. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2006. 4 vols. acid free \$495 (ISBN 0-19-514656-5).

Jack Zipes, editor for this impressive work, notes in his introduction that “children’s literature has come of age” (xxix). This encyclopedia tries to include information on the most significant and sometimes even the not-so-significant works that have played a role in the history of children’s literature around the world. (Some entries stray into the arcane, such as the short entry on George Armstrong Custer because of his influence on the dime novel.) There are articles on history and the state of children’s literature in such countries as Australia, Austria, Brazil, Germany, Korea, and Russia. There are hundreds of articles on authors and illustrators from the fifteenth century to the twenty-first; editors such as Ursula