

SOURCES

and musical languages. Entries include brief information on each work, linguistic and syntactical notes on the fictional language therein, and references. Detailed vocabulary is not included, although examples (and diagrams, if necessary) are given, especially for works with complex languages or more than one language, such as *Lord of the Rings* and *Gulliver's Travels*.

Perhaps because *Encyclopedia of Fictional and Fantastic Languages* has a narrow focus and is not exclusive to science fiction, there are no other comparable reference works available on the topic. (It should be noted that this book is thus far the only one with the Library of Congress subject heading "Imaginary languages—Encyclopedias.") This volume is recommended for academic libraries.—*Tracy Carr, Specialized Reference Manager, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson*

Encyclopedia of Holidays and Celebrations: A Country-by-Country Guide. Ed. by Matthew Dennis. New York: Facts On File, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$275 (ISBN 0-8160-6235-8).

Matthew Dennis, author of *Red, White, and Blue Letter Days: An American Calendar* (Cornell Univ. Pr., 2002), has created a three-volume guide that explores holidays and festivals in 206 countries. Volumes I and II are organized alphabetically by country, and volume III contains overviews of major internationally observed holidays and religions. Each country entry includes introductory material about the country's origin, history, political system, economy, geography, lifestyle and culture, and cuisine. The centerpiece of each entry is the description of the country's foremost holidays—public and legal, religious, and regional—with at-a-glance dates of observance and, if applicable, the religion of observance. In addition, significant rites of passage such as birth, coming-of-age, marriage, and death customs are described. Public and legal holidays are those officially recognized by the country's government with schools, businesses, and public offices generally closed on those days. Religious holidays are those that are religious in nature and officially recognized by the government or are observed by the country's majority religions.

Volume III contains entries on major religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, and Taoism, and festivals and holidays observed worldwide such as Carnival, Lent, Purim, and Ramadan. The volume also contains regional maps of the world, an overview of world calendar systems—including Gregorian, Islamic, and Hindu—solar and lunar calendar systems, a handy summary of holidays for all 206 countries, an index to the holidays, and a comprehensive index to the entire encyclopedia.

Entries have fun-fact sidebars, recipes, cross references, and a bibliography with many attractive black-and-white photographs, such as children in traditional dress, village dancers, weddings, and musical instruments.

There are other sources that cover holidays and festivals that complement this work, including Christian Roy's *Traditional Festivals: A Multicultural Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2005), which is a survey of 150 festivals. Sue Ellen Thompson's

Holiday Symbols and Customs (Omnigraphics, 2003) gives the background of 274 holidays and one thousand symbols and customs associated with them. Robert H. Griffin's *The Folklore of World Holidays* (Gale, 1999) is arranged by the Gregorian Calendar (January 1–December 31) and includes 340 holidays and festivals from 150 countries. Helene Hands's *Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations of the World Dictionary* (Omnigraphics, 2005) has short entries that cover 2,500 holidays from 100 countries and includes every state of the United States.

While all the previous sources are arranged by holiday or festival name, this resource is conveniently arranged by country, with combined information on culture, customs, traditions, and history. This welcome addition to multicultural studies is attractively laid out, easy to use, great for browsing as well as fact finding, and is highly recommended for high school, public, and college libraries.—*Eva Lautemann, Director of Learning Resources, Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston*

Encyclopedia of Human Geography. Ed. by Barney Warf. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2006. 616p. alkaline \$150 (ISBN 0-7619-8858-0).

The definition of human geography is elusive at best. It might well be described as the culmination of all disciplines within the social sciences and even some humanities. As the bibliographer for geography at the University of Colorado, Boulder, I find that to fulfill the teaching and research needs of the human geographers, I must delve into disciplines as diverse as economics, political science, environmental studies, sociology, minority studies, history, area studies, and urban planning, among others.

Encyclopedia of Human Geography, edited by Barney Warf, is a compendium of concepts that covers the breadth of this far-reaching discipline. The introduction to the volume is important reading for understanding the depth and growth of the field, especially over the last decade or so. To help the researcher understand the subject conceptually, the editor has provided a "Reader's Guide," which is an interesting reorganization of the entries under broad categories such as "economic geography," "geographic theory and history," and "social/cultural geography." A master bibliography of all the suggested reading material from the individual articles is included at the end of the volume in addition to an extensive, well-done index. Each entry has "see also" references that are very helpful in tying like concepts together.

This work is very similar to *Encyclopedia of Human Geography* by Gerald R. Pitzl (Greenwood, 2004). However, the entries in the Sage title are more extensive and are written by a large group of contributors.

A reference resource in this area that is superior to both the Sage and the Greenwood encyclopedias is *Dictionary of Human Geography*, edited by R. J. Johnson et al. (4th ed., Blackwell, 2000). This work has an impressive group of international contributors, is almost one thousand pages long, and covers the wide-ranging field of human geography more exhaustively. The references for the articles and suggested

readings are far more rigorous than either of the two encyclopedias. Some of the entries in the *Dictionary* are more in-depth and thorough than those on the same subject in the Sage encyclopedia.

Although the Sage *Encyclopedia of Human Geography* could be a useful addition to a high school or academic library, the *Dictionary* is now available in paperback at a very reasonable cost. In this day of shrinking reference budgets and competition from the Internet, one must choose resources carefully and look for value and value added.—*Suzanne T. Larsen, Faculty Director, Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Sciences and Map Library and Oliver C. Lester Mathematics and Physics Library, University of Colorado, Boulder*

Encyclopedia of Immigration and Migration in the American West. Ed. by Gordon Morris Bakken and Alexandra Kindell. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2006. 2 vols. acid free \$295 (ISBN 1-4129-0550-8).

In the *Encyclopedia of Immigration and Migration in the American West*, a diverse group of contributions are centered on the theme of “migration.” This term encompasses any relocation of people, including ones you’d probably expect (Japanese Internment, Trail of Tears, Okies) and more specialized topics (U.S. Marine Corps recruit depot in San Diego, migration of Iranian youth to California). Thirty-one individuals receive separate entries, including the well-known (Stephen Austin and Claude Lévi-Strauss, for example) and lesser-known (for example, Sarah Winnemucca). Surprisingly, given their role in “opening” the West, neither Meriwether Lewis nor William Clark merit an entry, although both appear in essays on other topics. Additional historical figures can be found in the four volumes of *The New Encyclopedia of the American West* (Simon and Schuster/Macmillan, 1996).

The inclusion of the many histories of individual Indian tribes, such as the Apaches, Nez Pearce, and Utes, are a strength of the set. These essays are among the longest and best-written in the collection. They complement and update standard reference sources such as the *Handbook of North American Indians* (Smithsonian Institution, 1978–). Topics relating to African-Americans and women also receive extensive coverage. Many ethnic groups, such as Italians, Irish, Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans receive separate overview essays, although others do not, including Germans, Poles, and Russians.

The community sketches are not as detailed on immigration trends or demographics as might be expected. Issues related to rising Hispanic American populations in cities such as San Diego, Phoenix, and Salt Lake City are largely absent from the community profiles. At times the city and town essays read like something produced by a chamber of commerce, as in this concluding statement from the entry on Kalispell, Montana: “Today, Kalispell is a paradise for those wanting to experience the beauty and solitude of Glacier National Park. Flathead Lake offers amazing boating and fishing . . . Kalispell truly has it all” (366).

Like many reference works, the quality of individual articles varies, perhaps due to the diversity of contributors, which includes independent scholars, high school teachers, and those affiliated with historical societies and universities. It is not clear from the information provided if the academics are students or faculty. The result is an engaging mélange with lively, sometimes passionate, writing. This can occasionally slip into melodrama as in these passages describing Stephen Austin: “Throughout Austin’s life, he was able to provide intense leadership in the face of dreaded opposition . . . while Austin was not the aggressive warrior that Houston was, his deeds, his courage, his sufferings, and his love for others entitled him to equal recognition. Perhaps no better qualities are possible for a father, most importantly a father of a republic” (41, 44).

In spite of the inevitable unevenness, this source has much to recommend it. Most essays provide concise overviews of complex and important topics in the history of the American West, the kind that can only be produced by someone versed in the field. All of the essays include a bibliography as an aid for those wishing to explore the topic further. Public and academic libraries with interests in the social history of the western United States will want to consider adding this source to their collections.—*Eric Novotny, Humanities Librarian, Penn State University Libraries, University Park*

Encyclopedia of India. Ed. by Stanley Wolpert. Detroit: Scribner, 2006. 4 vols. alkaline \$475 (ISBN 0-684-31349-9).

Editor-in-chief Stanley Wolpert had a huge undertaking when he committed himself to this project, as India is one of the oldest and most impressive civilizations in the world. In addition to its deep cultural history, India has also achieved significant economic and technological advancement during the past two decades. Wolpert states that India “has surpassed its old superpower patron, Russia, in gross national product as well as average life expectancy. India’s nuclear-powered modern army is second in size and might only to those of the United States and China” (xi).

Wolpert, along with a three-member editorial board, worked with more than two hundred international experts to create this four-volume reference set that includes 580 articles on a wide range of topics, all organized alphabetically. *Encyclopedia of India* is a comprehensive work in which readers will find entries on India’s art, economy, geography, history, literature, medicine, philosophy, politics, religion, science, and much more. Each article concludes with a bibliography and cross references to other articles that may be of interest to the reader.

Encyclopedia of India contains many useful features. Volume one is particularly functional with the “Thematic Outline of Contents” and “Chronologies” of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. All of the volumes include a “List of Maps,” “List of Articles,” and “Color Inserts,” which are eight pages of photographs focusing on “Art, Architecture, and Sculpture” (volume one), “Contemporary Life” (volume two),