

SOURCES

public demand for more information about global warming. Libraries have been inundated with new global warming and climate change books, but surprisingly, *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change* is the first comprehensive, cross-disciplinary encyclopedic treatment of the phenomenon and, as such, is a unique and valuable resource.

Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change takes a primarily nontechnical, but multidisciplinary approach, offering more than seven hundred articles written by biologists, geographers, political scientists, economists, and other scholars. Every country and every U.S. state is profiled, as are major scientific concepts, notable people, and institutions. The individually authored articles range in length from a few hundred to a few thousand words and include bibliographies.

Special features include an introductory essay covering the fundamentals of global warming and climate change, richly illustrated with full color photographs and maps. A brief “Chronology” follows, beginning ambitiously with the creation of the Earth, 4.5 billion years ago, and progressing through the Little Ice Age to the world’s first Earth Day to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s most recent report in 2007.

Except for the heavily illustrated “Introduction,” the bulk of the encyclopedia is textual. The few visual elements consist primarily of sparsely distributed black-and-white photographs. The “Appendix” contains several well-annotated and relevant graphs, such as “Recent Sea Level Rise” and “Global Warming Projections.” Due to the paucity of visuals, I recommend Kirstin Dow’s *The Atlas of Climate Change: Mapping the World’s Greatest Challenge* (Univ. of California Press, 2007) as a companion and supplement.

A number of recent encyclopedias cover humankind’s impact on the environment, including *Encyclopedia of Environment and Society* (Sage, 2007), *Environmental Encyclopedia* (Gale, 2003), and *Encyclopedia of Global Change: Environmental Change and Human Society* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2002). More technically oriented but related are *Encyclopedia of Atmospheric Sciences* (Elsevier, 2002) and its companion, *Encyclopedia of Oceanic Sciences* (Elsevier, 2002). Worth a special mention is the free, online *Encyclopedia of Earth* (Environmental Information Coalition), launched in 2006, which uses a wiki format in combination with recognized experts as editors to create a continuously evolving resource. All of these encyclopedias dedicate significant space to issues of global warming and climate change, but their scope is much broader and addresses a range of other issues as well.

Several shorter, handbook type publications have a narrower focus, such as *The Environment and Science: Social Impact and Interaction* (ABC-CLIO, 2005) and the ever-popular *Opposing Viewpoints* series entry on global warming. However, as previously stated, *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change* is the only encyclopedia dedicated to covering the issue exclusively. Not surprisingly, more reference titles about global warming and climate change are forthcoming.

Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change is recommended for reference collections in academic libraries

and larger public libraries. It is also available as an e-book. —Lori Townsend, *Electronic Collections Librarian, California State University East Bay, Hayward, California*

Encyclopedia of Political Communication. Ed. by Lynda L. Kaid and Christina Holtz-Bacha. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2008. 2 vols. acid free \$350 (ISBN 978-1-4129-1799-5).

This new two-volume set appears to be the first encyclopedia on this topic. It would be a good starting point for a person doing research in political science or journalism or the intersection of both of these fields. The editorial board is comprised of faculty members from both political science and journalism departments.

Books such as these are a welcome addition to the publishing field because politics are at the forefront of many people’s minds, given the current political climate. This work will suit those who feel intimidated about looking up information about political figures or movements in a bigger reference work. Additionally, a reference work such as this is an excellent starting point to begin research on today’s political climate in addition to beginning to understand America’s political past.

Within the main part of the set, some entries are really just cross references. For instance, an entry for Sargent Shriver only directs the reader to an entry about George McGovern. When one reads the entry about McGovern, there is a brief mention of Sargent Shriver as a running-mate for McGovern. Readers may be interested in learning about Shriver’s connection to the Kennedys, which is not brought up at all.

The few pictures are excellent. However, the work would have benefitted from having more photographs of historical significance in connection to the encyclopedia entries.

Another drawback is the text formatting in the longer entries. It is difficult to delineate the different topic headings in the longer entries and a beginning researcher may have a hard time discerning where one entry ends and another begins. Additionally, the binding appears to be weak and may not hold up to extended use without being rebound.

Still, the title would be a welcome addition to any academic or public library and is very accessible to many readers. It offers an excellent beginning to a soon-to-be burgeoning discipline.—Sheila Devaney, *MBA Career Resource Center Manager, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society. Ed. by Richard T. Schaefer. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2008. 3 vols. acid free \$495 (ISBN 978-1-4129-2694-2).

The complex, human concepts of race and ethnicity, according to the editors, “refer to long established groups with a common culture and geographic origin, often sharing a common language and religious tradition” (xivii). This reference work, encompassing a major body of research by various scholars, was created because race and ethnicity are