

is the recent five-volume *Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature* (Greenwood, 2005). This set provides essay-length entries with more substantive listings of resources and a chronology. Equally notable is The Scribner Writers Series two-volume set, *African American Writers* (Scribner, 2001) and *African-American Writers* (ABC-CLIO, 2000). All in all, students will find online subscription-based *The Oxford African American Studies Center* and *African American Experience* (Greenwood) as reliable and likely more appealing for their convenience.

The stated “emphasis on new and emerging writers” must be writers born after 1960, yet they make up less than ten percent of the volume. Much of the coverage is duplicative, including content on lesser-known yet important influences of African American culture, for example hip-hop icons Tupac Shakur, Ice-T, and Mos Def; the rap group Public Enemy; celebrity actress Queen Latifah; and self-confessed pimps turned writers Donald Goines and Iceberg Slim. A topical list of entries would have improved access to the volume’s contents. And although there are a few typographical errors (e.g., James Weldon Johnson’s dates are listed as 1871-1871) and noteworthy omissions (e.g., Arthur A. Schomburg and Paul Robeson) the volume is well done and approachable for beginning researchers. Selectors should weigh the benefits of purchasing yet another print source on this subject if they can afford the online products. This is an optional purchase for high school, community college, and lower division undergraduate libraries.—Katharine A. Webb, *Librarian, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio*

Encyclopedia of Educational Psychology. Ed. by Neil J. Salkind. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2008. 2 vols. acid free \$350 (ISBN 978-1-4129-1688-2).

Researchers in the field of educational psychology seek answers to some of society’s most important questions: How can we help human beings develop intellectually, physically, and socially? How is knowledge transferred? How do we excite people about learning? How do we make education relevant to students with different backgrounds and abilities? How do we ensure that teaching practices are effective? Educational psychology draws from assessment, cognitive, developmental, motivational, and social psychology, and is applied daily in everyone’s lives, not just those of K–12 students.

An encyclopedia has great potential to introduce novices to the findings of researchers and practitioners. Unfortunately, *Encyclopedia of Educational Psychology* tends to miss the mark. Some articles, such as ones on high-stakes testing and immigration, do a good job of connecting current interests to theories and practices in educational psychology. Unfortunately, even with the most expansive conceptualization of the topic, the connection between many other articles and educational psychology is unclear. For example, a two-page article on athletics focuses on the “Origin and Governance of Men’s and Women’s Athletics” and the “Role of the Athlete in Higher Education.” However, within an educational psychology

context, one might hope to find a discussion of the effects of sports involvement on academic performance, long-term implications of head injuries on cognitive functioning, the role of games in socializing youngsters, the difficulties student athletes may face in balancing their responsibilities, or other such topics. Similarly, a seven-page article on gangs discusses the various types of gangs, gang members, and violence, but does not point out how theoretical frameworks prevalent in educational psychology, such as Bandura’s insights on self-efficacy and social learning, might explain why adolescents join gangs. It also does not discuss in detail topics such as the recruitment and initiation of young people into gangs (a kind of educational activity), gangs in schools, or other topics of interest.

The intent of the work is to “[focus] on those topics that evoke the interests of the everyday reader” and “share this information in a way that is . . . informative without being overly technical or intimidating” (xxix). Thus one should not expect to find in-depth articles that address the interests of experts. Yet, the stated goal is undercut by more than thirty (of 275 total) entries relating to research methods (Salkind and Sage’s specialty). One can hardly imagine a novice coming to this source to find information on the “Confidence Interval” or “Standard Deviation and Variance.” Furthermore, if a library already owns Sage’s other methods works—especially its *Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods* (edited by Michael S. Lewis-Beck and others, 2004) or *Encyclopedia of Measurement and Statistics* (edited by Salkind, 2007)—such entries in the *Encyclopedia of Educational Psychology* are repetitive.

Editor Neil Salkind is misleading in asserting that there are currently “few comprehensive overviews of the field of educational psychology” (xxix). While there are no recent encyclopedias that I am aware of, there are worthwhile handbooks, including *Handbook of Educational Psychology* (Lawrence Erlbaum, 2006, edited by Patricia A. Alexander and Philip H. Winne), the *Praeger Handbook of Learning and the Brain* (Praeger, 2006, edited by Sheryl Feinstein), and several undergraduate-level readers and textbooks. Also, encyclopedias on education and human development will likely include much of the material offered here. In fact, when one compares the tables of contents, at least one hundred of the entries in *Encyclopedia of Educational Psychology* have a counterpart in Sage’s *Encyclopedia of Human Development* (2006). In summary, the *Encyclopedia of Educational Psychology* is recommended only for the most comprehensive collections.—Bernadette A. Lear, *Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, Penn State Harrisburg Library, Middletown, Pennsylvania*.

Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change. Ed. by S. G. Philander. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage, 2008. 3 vols. acid free \$375 (ISBN 978-1-4129-5878-3).

After Davis Guggenheim’s hit movie featuring Al Gore, *An Inconvenient Truth* (Lawrence Bender Productions, 2006), the publishing industry awakened to a seemingly insatiable

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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