The second section contains the real heart of this work, more than fifty primary source documents. This section contains everything from the Mayflower Compact to the words to “Over the River and Through the Wood” to a poem by contemporary children’s author Jack Prelutsky. The documents are organized by ten broad historical time periods, including First Thanksgiving, Revolutionary Period, and Modern Times, and there is also a section on Native American perspectives on Thanksgiving. All documents have source notes or citations.

The final section of this work contains recipes ranging from appetizers to leftovers. There are instructions on how to handle and cook a turkey, prepare a turducken (a turkey stuffed with a duck stuffed with a chicken), and make desserts and drinks. This section does not have any source notes or discussion of the history (or rationale) of the recipes which is a little frustrating when one is looking for an “authentic” recipe.

The work also contains a helpful chronology, a bibliography, lists of photo and illustration credits, and an index that is essential if you need to find out about dispersed topics such as cranberries, which are mentioned in several sections of the book. The book is illustrated in black and white with small, muddy photographs or reproductions of artwork that do not really enhance the text.

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of World Holidays (U*X*L, 2000) is also designed for the general reader and deals with celebrations of specific holidays such as Christmas and Thanksgiving, but it does not have the wealth of primary source documents and extensive recipes. The Thanksgiving Book work pulls together information from many sources and provides helpful, quick access to primary source materials on many related topics that are not covered thoroughly elsewhere. Recommended for middle school through community college libraries and public libraries that need reference material in this area.—Dona J. Helmer, Librarian, Anchorage School District, Anchorage, Alaska


This book aims to fill the gap in the existing literature where women ought to be. Women in American Musical Theatre not only celebrates the often-overlooked women discussed here, but also promotes a more scholarly discourse around musical theater generally with rigorous and thorough essays. Yet it does not seem useful to this reviewer as a reference work.

Two excellent publications focusing on historically marginalized groups in musical theater are The Queer Encyclopedia of Music, Dance & Musical Theater, edited by Claude J. Summers (Cleis Press, 2004) and Bernard L. Peterson Jr.’s A Century of Musicals in Black and White: An Encyclopedia of Musical Stage Works by, about, or Involving African Americans (Greenwood, 1993). Like standard reference works, they provide access through multiple indices, offer internal bibliographies pointing to further research, and arrange the short entries alphabetically so the researcher can easily dip in and find relevant information. The same cannot be said for the arrangement of Women in American Musical Theatre; scholars and enthusiasts will continue to wait for the feminist reference counterpart to the two works mentioned above. Moreover, coverage in Women in American Musical Theatre is limited to the twentieth century, and as the editors point out in their introduction, the information here should be considered a sampling of women’s contributions rather than an overview.

Given the resources we already have to work with, does a collection of essays belong on the reference shelf? Women in American Musical Theatre is a worthwhile purchase for public and academic libraries because of the popularity of musical theater and the unique coverage of the subject. However, this book is recommended for the circulating collection.—Amy R. Hofer, Research Instruction Librarian, Golden Gate University, San Francisco, California
browsable, the essay format, rather than an alphabetical or topical listing (primary resource, book, article, website, etc.) makes quick referencing problematic. The author does not claim this volume to be that of a reference work and the reviewer would agree. Although the index is extensive and allows for easy location of topics, keywords, and people, this is the only strong reference work component. If one is looking for a true reference work on the topic, a better choice is Encyclopedia of Women in the American West (Sage, 2003), edited by Gordon Morris Bakken and Brenda Farrington. Two works are suggested as complements to the reviewed work especially when considering women’s history course materials. So Much to be Done: Women Settlers on the Mining and Ranching Frontier (2d ed., Univ. of Nebraska Pr., 1998), edited by Ruth B. Moynihan, Susan Armitage, and Christiane Fischer Dichamp, provides the primary resource component lacking in Women in the American West. Women and Gender in the American West: Jensen-Miller Prize Essays from the Coalition for Western Women’s History (Univ. of New Mexico Pr., 2004) edited by Mary Ann Irwin and James F. Brooks, is a collection of essays highlighting at depth many of the aspects of women’s history covered in the reviewed work.

The historical survey provided by Women in the American West fills a gap for scholarship on this nature on this topic. It is not a traditional reference work, but has many merits as a course textbook. The work is suggested for academic libraries of all levels, especially those supporting a women's or gender history/studies program.—Kristi L. Palmer, Assistant Librarian, Liaison to the Departments of History, Women’s Studies and American Studies, IUPUI University Library, Indianapolis, Indiana

Professional Materials
Karen Antell
Editor


Public librarians today are constantly looking for ways to increase their visibility and their viability in their communities, especially with teenagers and young adults. Eli Neiburger, the technology manager for the Ann Arbor (Michigan) District Library, has a solution that may seem unorthodox to some—hosting video game tournaments in the library. An unapologetic video game fan since playing his first Atari game at age five, Neiburger makes a pointed and passionate case for why libraries should open their doors to gamers and how gaming can enhance libraries’ relevance as community institutions. He covers all the areas necessary to have a successful library gaming program: providing and setting up the proper hardware and software; planning and promoting library gaming events; and expanding a library’s gaming audience. With tongue-in-cheek, slangy writing (which some readers may find too casual a tone), Neiburger shatters conceptions of proper library programs and suggests, in good fun, that librarians lighten up and embrace something new and, to many librarians, different. He also provides a handy and useful chapter on gaming resources and links. The author astutely points out in the first chapter that young adults use the Internet primarily to send e-mail and to play games, according to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, so it makes sense to harness this Internet usage of video games and welcome a new generation of library users (who can also be introduced to books, magazines, and other standard library fare). Neiburger, with his irreverent book, may be a new apostle for library programming for those librarians willing to try something new. This book is highly recommended for those brave souls who choose to do so.—Larry Cooperman, Librarian, Everglades University, Altamonte Springs, Florida