SOURCES

Articles are signed and composed primarily by academics. The text's coverage is from January 1, 1980 to December 31, 1989. The majority of the work is devoted to American events and individuals but also included are sixty-one articles on Canadian topics ("Canadian Caper," "Trudeau, Pierre"). The encyclopedia's articles discuss matters that symbolize the decade ("AIDS," "Reagan, Ronald") and traverse other periods ("Academy Awards," "Globalization"). In addition to the articles, the text is complemented with useful supplementary features including three hundred black-and-white photographs, sixty sidebars, sixteen appendixes, and three indexes.

The major assets of this encyclopedia include its readability, breadth of coverage, and organization. The text effectively covers traditional topics such as popular culture, government, politics, social issues, arts, and literature. In addition, it contains entries related to race ("Minorities in Canada," "Racial discrimination"); women ("Domestic violence," "Mommy track"); and sexual orientation ("Homosexuality and gay rights," "Military ban on homosexuals"). Its coverage of Canadian as well as American topics permits readers to compare and contrast key issues in the two nations. For example, the entry on abortion notes that although it took longer to establish abortion rights in Canada than in the United States, these rights became less curtailed in Canada in comparison to U.S. In addition to the work's comprehensiveness, it is well organized. For instance, each essay begins with a section that briefly defines or describes the topic and concludes with a segment that evaluates the topic's significance. This structure contributes to the reader's overall understanding of the topic. In addition to precise subject and personages indexes, the work contains a very useful photograph index that provides straightforward access to the work's three hundred images.

Other works on the 1980s include Ellen Meltzer and Marc Aronson's *Day by Day, The Eighties* (Facts On File, 1995) and Bob Batchelor and Scott Stoddart's *The 1980s* (Greenwood Press, 2007). *The Eighties in America* is significantly different from both of these other works. Meltzer and Aronson's work is a two volume, daily chronology of key events that occurred in the United States and the world between January 1, 1980 and December 31, 1989. Batchelor and Stoddart's text is a single volume work that features twelve lengthy essays focussing primarily on developments in popular culture in the United States.

Readers will likely find information on some of the topics explored in *The Eighties in America* in other subject reference works (for example, Reagan and his administration, as well as entries related to popular culture, technology, and topics that intersect with other time periods); however, matters explored in this title such as "Cyberpunk literature," "Valley girls," and "Wave, the" may not get extensive, if any, treatment in another encyclopedia. Additionally, this set accumulates a range of topics significant to the 1980s and provides a unique perspective by discussing the importance of these topics within the context of the decade. It is recommended for public and undergraduate libraries.—*Michelle Hendley, Reference Librarian, State University of New York, College at Oneonta*

Encyclopedia of African-American Literature. Ed. by Wilfred Samuels. Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Literature. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 624p. acid free $75 (ISBN 978-0-8160-5073-4).

The Ethnic American Literature series comprises three encyclopedias covering American Indian, Asian American, and now African-American writers and their works. The series is true to the familiar Facts On File format with entries arranged A-to-Z followed by a short list of relevant works. This volume features established and lesser known writers and pertinent works of African American literature from the eighteenth century to current best selling authors, with an "emphasis on new and emerging writers" (ix). The biographical scope includes writers of fiction and nonfiction, poets, playwrights, musicians, artists, celebrities, educational and political leaders, and other important voices. Author entries are descriptively bibliographical, highlighting their most significant works and influence in historical and cultural context.

Editor Wilfred Samuels, associate professor of English and Ethnic Studies at the University of Utah, has previously published a book on author Toni Morrison and many scholarly articles on African American literature and culture. More than five hundred entries signed by 114 contributors are even in tone, style, and quality. Most entries range in length from a half page to four pages. Allowing cross-referencing, headings for literary works note the name of the author. Appendixes include a bibliography of major works and a bibliography of secondary sources. There is a list of contributors and the index completes the work and includes major entries in bold.

The larger focus of the volume is given to twentieth century voices. However, several prominent authors from the eighteenth century and the turn of the nineteenth century are included, such as Fredrick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Booker T. Washington. Treatment is also given to movements (Black Aesthetic, Black Arts, Negritude), fictional characters (Mammy, Tea Cake, Sethe), publishing outlets (Black World, Callaloo, Third World Press), terms (Black Power, trickster, womanist/womanish), important organizations, and collections and anthologies. A significant number of entries cover canonical works, for example, Richard Wright's *Native Son*, Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, and Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. There are also entries on relevant nonliterary topics, for instance, AIDS and Testifying.

Although more selective in scope, many collections may already hold *African-American Writers* (Facts On File, 2004). Reputable for more critical source material and scholarly treatment on the subject is *The Columbia Guide to African American Literature* (Columbia Univ. Pr., 1997) and *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2005), as well as *The Handbook of African American Literature* (Univ. of Florida Pr., 2004). For critical bio-bibliographical treatment on more historical writers is *African American Authors, 1745-1945* (Greenwood, 2000) and Macmillan's *African American Literary Criticism, 1773 to 2000* (1999). More approachable for beginning researchers

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