

mental and physical health problems of caregivers. The comparable entry in *Encyclopedia of Senior Health and Well-Being* discusses the feeling of empowerment that can accompany being a caregiver and includes a brief discussion on caregivers' perceptions of their own health.

Encyclopedia of Health and Aging is a single-volume work containing more than two hundred entries written by more than 250 contributors. Entries range from "Alzheimer's Disease" to "Lewy Body Dementia," and "Asian and Pacific Islander Americans" to "Normative Aging Study." Markides' inspiration for topics in this encyclopedia reflects those covered in the *Journal of Aging and Health*, a publication he founded and edits.

The encyclopedia's organization and its straightforward presentation of information strengthen the work's value to the field of medicine. In addition to the list of contributors and alphabetic list of all entries, a readers guide divides all of the entries into eleven different subject areas, aiding in the location of entries covering similar topic areas. One shortcoming of the readers guide is the lack of explanation for which topics fall under which headings. For example, it is not clear why under "Diseases and Medical Conditions" there is an entry for "Men's Health" but not "Women's Health."

Following the readers guide and introduction to the encyclopedia are the entries themselves. Entries vary in length from half a page to several pages and include the contributor's name, "see also" references, and further reading and reference lists. There are some figures, charts, and tables that enhance the content of the text. Following the entries is an appendix providing forty-five online, annotated resources regarding aging. An index also is included.

The information covered in this resource is straightforward and content-rich. One is able to locate information quickly and efficiently without having to sort through lengthy entries or pages of images or tables. With its medical focus this work fills a gap in the literature. It is recommended for hospital and academic libraries.—*Maria C. Melssen, Reference and Education Librarian, University of Toledo, Ohio.*

Encyclopedia of World Constitutions. Ed. by Gerhard Robbers. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 3 vols. acid free \$255 (ISBN 0-8160-6078-9).

Almost all countries have some form of written constitution that defines the rules that govern that state. As Gerhard Robbers, the editor of the *Encyclopedia of World Constitutions*, notes in the introduction, these rules may not always be followed by that country's leaders, but they do define expectations by which that nation may be judged by the world. Constitutions define fundamental rights, including human rights and rights of citizens; they outline the structure of the government; and they define the degree to which people can participate in governance.

This set includes entries for 194 nation-states as well as special territories and the European Union. Entries, which are generally about five to six pages in length, follow the same

basic format. The opening "At-a-Glance" section provides basic information, such as the name of the state, the capital, population, languages, religions, and type of government. This is followed by a brief introduction, a somewhat longer constitutional history, and then details about the current constitutional structure. This last portion includes sections on the "Form and Impact of the Constitution," "Basic Organizational Structure," "Leading Constitutional Principles," "Constitutional Bodies," "The Election Process," "Political Parties," "Citizenship," "Fundamental Rights," "Economy and Economic Rights," "Religious Communities," "Military Defense and State of Emergency," and "Amendments to the Constitution." In cases where it is warranted, these sections are subdivided. For instance, the section on constitutional bodies may include subsections on the presidency, the cabinet, the congress, and the judiciary. In states where it is warranted, the federal structure is outlined here as well. The entries are well-written in language understandable to high school students but still useful for more advanced users. All entries are written by constitutional scholars, who, in many cases, are from the country being described.

For readers who wish to consult the original documents, there are citations to the Internet versions of the constitutions at the end of each entry. Whenever possible, these include versions in English and native languages. The citations are followed by a brief list of secondary sources, many of which are in languages other than English, making them of questionable use for a set designed for an English-speaking high school and undergraduate audience.

Despite this minor quibble, this is a valuable set that all types of libraries will wish to acquire. It is much more comprehensive than Robert L. Maddex's single-volume *Constitutions of the World* (2d ed., CQ Pr., 2001), which contains entries for only one hundred countries. And, because constitutions are constantly evolving, the currency of *Encyclopedia of World Constitutions* is important.—*Michael Levine-Clark, Collections Librarian, Penrose Library, University of Denver, Colorado*

The Fourth of July Encyclopedia. By James R. Heintze. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2007. 360p. alkaline \$55 (ISBN 0-7864-2777-9).

James Heintze, librarian emeritus at the American University Library in Washington, D.C., has written extensively on American music, history, and culture. His most recent books include a bibliography on Igor Stravinsky and *Reflections on American Music: The Twentieth Century and the New Millennium* (Pendragon Pr., 2000, co-edited with Michael Saffle). His latest book, *The Fourth of July Encyclopedia*, is the first comprehensive reference text on Fourth of July celebrations and origins.

The Fourth of July Encyclopedia consists of a broad range of entries, from the origins of America's independence, to notable events throughout American history on and around July Fourth (including events that had an impact on the holiday), to notable aspects of July Fourth celebrations, such as fireworks displays, social movements, and civic projects.