

This book is recommended to public and academic libraries lacking other up-to-date sources, or to those where online access is problematic. Its cost, and the availability of competing reference books covering similar topics, as well as online databases that contain the same material, make it an optional purchase for libraries with comprehensive GLBT collections.—*Martha E. Stone, Coordinator for Reference Services, Treadwell Library, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston*

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**Homelessness Handbook.** Ed. by David Levinson and Marcy Ross. Great Barrington, Mass.: Berkshire, 2007. 465p. alkaline \$135 (ISBN 1-933782-03-X).

*Homelessness Handbook* is a comprehensive source focusing on the psychological, social, historical, and physical concerns of the homeless in the United States and the world. The book provides detailed articles written by experts in the field, alongside an intermingling of facts and figures, photographs and illustrations, quotes, and terms.

The articles are split up into eight sections: historical topics, such as the Great Depression; statistics and demographic groups, such as veterans; life issues, including health problems and survival strategies; the perceptions of the homeless captured in the media; the causes of homelessness; prevention programs and other solutions for alleviating homelessness; homelessness profiles in United States cities, including St. Louis and Washington D.C.; and profiles of different countries and cities in the world, including Japan and Calcutta.

The articles are interesting and generally run three to six pages in length. This is the kind of reference book that could be read from cover to cover because it is so well-written and covers a social problem that just about everyone has encountered. Each article has a bibliography of further readings that includes harder-to-find materials, such as print and electronic government documents, as well as many scholarly, peer-reviewed articles. The book also contains a short glossary of terms and a list of pertinent organizations.

It is important to compare this work to the two-volume *The Encyclopedia of Homelessness* (Berkshire, 2004), also edited by David Levinson. *Homelessness Handbook* contains many of the same entries verbatim. For example, the entry for African-Americans in the *Encyclopedia* is just about the same as the article in the *Handbook*, except for the addition of a sidebar article on "Slavery and the Homeless." In the introduction to the *Handbook*, the editors insist that it is a "completely new work" that "distills, reorganizes, and updates portions of the encyclopedia's content" (xi).

The new format and added articles do create a new, but similar, reference work. While the *Encyclopedia* presents somewhat disconnected entries in alphabetical order, the *Handbook* exhibits a more coherently ordered stream of information through its sections of related topics. For example, the section on "Lifestyles and Life Issues" in the new *Handbook* gives the reader eighty pages of connected information about such topics as "survival strategies," "alcohol and drugs," and "living on the margins." In the *Encyclopedia*, these entries

would have been split up between the two volumes, with hundreds of pages separating them.

Although there is some duplication between the two reference books, the new *Handbook* does an excellent job of reorganizing the information and updating it with many new topics, including information on Hurricane Katrina. The *Encyclopedia* does contain more information that is left out of the new *Handbook*, so libraries should not withdraw the *Encyclopedia* and treat the *Handbook* as a replacement edition.

Overall, this resource is a useful tool for the researcher, student, librarian, or community member. It will assist anyone who is concerned about the homeless epidemic in the United States and the world. Recommended for public and college libraries.—*Colleen Lougen, Electronic Resources Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz*

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**Latinos in the Arts.** By Steven Otfinoski. A to Z of Latino Americans. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 288p. alkaline \$44 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6394-9).

*Latinos in the Arts* by Steven Otfinoski, author of other Facts On File publications, including *African-Americans in the Performing Arts* (2003) and *African-Americans in the Visual Arts* (2003), offers profiles on 178 Latino performing and visual artists. Otfinoski notes that this work does not provide an exhaustive list of Latino artists, but rather those selected "have been pioneers or innovators in their field" and "reflect Latino culture and traditions" (vii–viii). Individuals of Spanish and Brazilian descent are included, though entries are limited to those who were born in the United States or lived here permanently after emigrating from a Latin country.

Profiles in *Latinos in the Arts* are included for such popular singers and actors as Cristina Aguilera, Jennifer Lopez, and Edward James Olmos, as well as less-prominent figures, such as muralist and commercial artist Willie Herron and photographer, painter, and video artist Alma Lopez. Some entries include a black-and-white photograph of the profiled individual. Entries range from one to two pages and include lists for further reading as well as further listening and further viewing when appropriate. It should be noted that some further reading lists rely on Internet-based resources, including *The Internet Movie Database* ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)) and *Wikipedia* (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>), the latter being a questionable source to include in a reference work bibliography.

Preceding the general index, artists are grouped within three helpful categories that provide additional means of access to the alphabetically listed profiles. They include: "Entries by Area of Activity," "Entries by Year of Birth," and "Entries by Ethnicity or Country of Origin."

In the last three years, several encyclopedias on Latinos and Latino culture have been published. These include *Latinas in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia* (Indiana Univ. Pr., 2006), edited by Viki L. Ruiz and Virginia Sánchez Korrol; *Encyclopedia Latina: History, Culture, and Society in the United States* (Grolier Academic Reference, 2005), edited by Ilan Stavans; *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in*