anthropology, culinary arts, medicine, and even economics.

As with any encyclopedia, both clarity and context are at times sacrificed in the service of communicating complex information in a restricted space. In some cases the writing is poorly organized, jumping from topic to topic. The further reading suggestions vary in both quantity and focus, with some entries pointing to introductory works, including websites that may lack rigorous provenance, and others pointing to complex technical works. The bibliography is comprehensive and would be helpful for identifying works that present additional context for the information in the entries.

The chief value of this work is its presentation of a cross-section of content typically found in gardening, agricultural, and culinary reference volumes, enhanced by information from other fields of study. This work would be particularly useful to high school and college students looking for introductory information related to the many ways in which humans interact with plants, including food, shelter, medicine, art, occupation, and recreation. It is also a delightful way to discover how plants connect disciplines and may be of interest to writers, historians, and others outside the study of botany.—Shari Laster, Government Documents/Reference Librarian, University Libraries, The University of Akron, Ohio


The Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence and Abuse from ABC-CLIO is a traditional two-volume set with twin aims of informing on and promoting awareness of a pervasive problem still too often relegated to niche status. Editor Laura L. Finley, assistant professor of sociology and criminology at Barry University, has culled the work of sixty academics who have authored over 170 entries each with byline and bibliography of suggested further reading resources.

The set’s organizational structure begins with three special tools, which include comprehensive alphabetical and subject-based lists of entries followed by an extensive timeline of significant events related to domestic violence ranging from the first Roman marriage laws codifying women’s obeisance to their husbands in 753 BC to the recent determination in 2011 by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights re: Jessica Lenahan (Gonzales) et al. v. United States, “Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000,” and the “Violence Against Women Act” (actually a sub-section of the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act). Appendix B consists of a list of state, national, and international organizations related to domestic abuse along with contact information. Given how easily discoverable the documents in Appendix A are via the UN and US GPO websites and how compiled contact lists such as those found in Appendix B are often out of date before they are even printed, the editor and publisher would seem to have missed an excellent opportunity to produce a sleeker one-volume title to both strengthen its utility and lower its cost. Still, Finley’s work has few directly comparable titles, the closest being editor Nicky Ali Jackson’s Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence (Routledge, 2007). Academic libraries specializing in sociology and criminology collections and others which still maintain comprehensive print-based reference collections are likelyest to find this title useful.—Chris G. Hudson, Associate Director for Collection Services, Olin and Chalmers Libraries, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio


A freelance writer, researcher, and publisher, Steve