

and engineering; arts, music, and entertainment; business, economics, and marketing; communication and computers; friendship, romance, and religion; games, sports, and recreation; government, politics, and history; history and development of curricular concepts; mathematics around the world; mathematics culture and identity; medicine and health; school and society; space, time, and distance; travel and transportation; and weather, nature and environment. The editors' criteria for the article topics to include in these categories are both practical and logical.

The front matter of volume 1 begins with a condensed table of contents of all three volumes followed by the publisher's note. Next is a page which gives information about the editors, both of whom are professors at Appalachian State University in North Carolina and have distinguished careers in academia. The introduction by the editors gives a detailed explanation of the purpose of the work and the reasons for the choices made in its creation. Especially pertinent is the fact that the articles do not teach or present detailed mathematical theory, derivations, or equations, leaving that task to the many sources for that purpose, such as textbooks and reference works dealing primarily with mathematics.

Next come two listings of articles: first an alphabetical listing of all 490 articles with the page number, followed by another list in which the articles are arranged by category. Finally is the list of article contributors, who come from small and large institutions from all over the world. The contents and alphabetical list of articles appear at the beginning of all three volumes. The last volume also includes at its end a Chronology of Mathematics, a bibliography, a glossary, and an extensive index.

Articles include "Brain," "Predicting Divorce," and "Martial Arts"—articles of astonishing choice and variety. Usually ranging from one to four pages, articles begin with a title, category, fields of study involved, and a brief summary. At the end of each, there are references for further reading, suggestions for related articles, and the name of the author. There are some biographical articles which were chosen to highlight the diversity of individuals who contributed to the included topics. This encyclopedia will be added to Salem History, this publisher's online historical database; thus most articles do emphasize historical aspects. Rather than being oversimplified, the information and the mathematics are comprehensive while still remaining accessible and understandable.

There are no obvious works with which to compare this publication. Of course, there are many encyclopedias and dictionaries of mathematics, some meant for advanced work, others for the beginning student. These works are heavy on formulas, calculations, and mathematical terms. James Tanton's *Encyclopedia of Mathematics* (Facts on File, 2005) is one such work often found in public libraries. It is of medium difficulty and features essays on the history of undergraduate branches of mathematics. Nigel Hopkins' *The Numbers You Need* (Gale, 1992) has the same idea and a similar purpose, but at three hundred pages, it is too brief to be compared with the present work.

The Encyclopedia of Mathematics and Society will be a unique and useful addition to any public, high school, or undergraduate library. Mathematics teachers will find its availability to be most gratifying. Anyone will find it interesting reading.—Dr. Nancy F. Carter, Librarian Emeritus, University Libraries, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado

Encyclopedia of Social Networks. Ed. by George A. Barnett. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage Reference, 2011. 2 vols. \$350 (ISBN: 978-1-4129-7911-5). E-book available, call for pricing.

Many people probably think that "social networking" merely concerns interactions (often ephemeral ones) through online technologies. Yet the *Encyclopedia of Social Networks* shows that such media are only the most recent means of a social phenomenon that has been engaging us for thousands of years. As editor George A. Barnett explains, a social network is "a system, composed of a set of social actors . . . and a collection of social relations . . . which specify how these actors are relationally tied" (viii). Such networks can and do exist independent of technology and comprise a rich field of scholarly enquiry.

This broad outlook stems from the editor who assembled an international team of authors from academia and research organizations. Barnett himself is chair of the Department of Communication at the University of California-Davis and is a frequently cited author in the area of international communication networks. Together, they produced about four hundred entries introducing readers to many important aspects of the topic.

Besides currently-popular networks like Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, the encyclopedia provides background information on many other types of social networks, including alumni networks, artist communities, dieting networks, fan networks, kinship, games communities, mothers communities, neighborhood organizations, religious communities, and more. This coverage will likely expand readers' understanding of the many social structures that operate in human lives, including their own.

Another unique aspect of this work is its emphasis on the history and cultural aspects of social networking, which extend all the way back to trade routes in Mesopotamia, Ancient Greece, and the like. A handy "Chronology" (xxxiii–xxxix) emphasizes the point. This said, there may be overkill, especially for the average undergraduate. Of more than four hundred entries, about 180 concern social networks in specific U.S. states and foreign countries. This is a boon to those interested in regional aspects but may represent a lot of extraneous material to students who don't care about Connecticut, the Czech Republic, or other locations. One also wonders if such political boundaries are still meaningful today, when the college experience, multinational corporations, sporting events, and the Internet bring people together from all over the globe.

As one would expect from a Sage publication, there are also about fifty entries pertaining to theory and methods

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of social network analysis. For instance, readers will learn about principles such as homophily (the tendency of similar people to have more social interaction) as well as Q-analysis and other methods of graphically representing relationships. Graduate students and faculty conducting such research will find much more technical help in handbooks, but the encyclopedia's entries will be useful to undergraduates and librarians who need brief explanations.

There are other introductory works on social media (for instance, see *Encyclopedia of Virtual Communications and Technologies*, edited by Subhasish Dasgupta, Idea Group, 2006 and the *Encyclopedia of Social Movement Media*, edited by John D. H. Downing, Sage, 2010), as well as titles for social relationships (such as the 3-volume *Encyclopedia of Human Relationships*, edited by Harry T. Reis et. al., Sage, 2009). However, these sources do not offer as much historical or cultural perspective. Recommended for libraries serving social sciences undergraduates, especially those with regional or international interests.—Bernadette A. Lear, *Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, The Pennsylvania State University–Harrisburg Library, Middletown.*

Encyclopedia of South Africa. Ed. by Krista Johnson and Sean Jacobs. Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner, 2011. 373 pages. alkaline \$95 (ISBN: 978-1-58826-749-8).

Although other encyclopedias, such as John Middleton's *Encyclopedia of Africa South of the Sahara* (Scribner's Sons, 1997) and Kwame Appiah and Henry Louis Gates' *Encyclopedia of Africa* (Oxford, 2010), include detailed entries about South Africa, the *Encyclopedia of South Africa* is the first English-language reference work to focus exclusively and comprehensively on the country of South Africa. Edited by Krista Johnson (Howard University) and Sean Jacobs (The New School), the *Encyclopedia of South Africa* is an authoritative and accessible introduction to the complex history, politics, and culture of the country.

The *Encyclopedia of South Africa* is organized alphabetically by entry and covers topics ranging from the geographical to the sociological; examples include thematic entries such as "Political Cultures and Ideologies," "Land Tenure and Dispossession," and "Theater and Performance," as well as briefer entries providing information about topics such as cultural figures, languages, indigenous groups, or cities. Entries are well written and provide thorough explanation without overwhelming the reader, and many end with a bibliography of further reading. The content and tone of the writing presents a thoughtful, balanced, and informative look at issues and is particularly welcome in complex entries such as "AIDS" and "Gold & Diamond Mining." The appendixes are a practical complement to the main text and provide up to date statistics, a chronology of South African history, and a chronology of key apartheid legislation. One noticeable omission is a cumulative reading list; although the majority of entries feature bibliographies, not all do, and readers would likely benefit from a central reading list. Concluding the text is a list of

volume contributors and an excellent index.

Overall, the *Encyclopedia of South Africa* is a strong reference work which benefits from simple organization and a clear writing style. Librarians and patrons alike will appreciate the care taken in providing continuity clues; readers are alerted in-paragraph to name changes such as "the Free State Province (formerly the Orange Free State Province)" (178). The encyclopedia also provides meticulous cross-referencing; helpful in circumstances when a patron researching the "ANC" may be redirected to the "African National Congress." A glossary of acronyms is also included in the appendixes. Highly recommended for all libraries.—Kristin J. Henrich, *Reference Coordinator, University of Idaho Library, Moscow, Idaho*

Encyclopedia of Women in Today's World. Ed. by Mary Zeiss Stange, Carol K. Oyster, and Jane E. Sloan. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage Reference, 2011. 4 vols. \$495 (ISBN: 978-1-4129-7685-5).

Tackling the challenge of compiling a print reference for complete coverage of women in today's world (since 2000) seems at first a task too large to do successfully. In fact, the three editors explicitly state in the introduction that they knew the encyclopedia would have gaps, as it would be practically impossible to comprehensively cover all possible topics about all women in the world. However, they do state that what the encyclopedia may lack in completeness "is more than made up for by its overall coherence and consistency of purpose" (vii). The editors do accomplish meeting the challenge and give readers a usable print reference to begin supplementing the lack of reference material focusing on women globally and through a gender studies lens.

The encyclopedia is not a catalog listing of "great women" in the world; in fact, the editors chose to avoid that angle altogether. Recognizing that setting standards of greatness speaks to patriarchal roots, they instead focus on events, organizations, theories, and communities that are structurally relevant to women in the world today. There are "Signal Biographies," such as Judy Chicago or Vandana Shiva, where selected women are showcased because of their contributions to the evolution of women's status in the world.

The overall focus of the encyclopedia is limited to scholarship and events since 2000 with inclusion of foundational ideas when needed but omits any in-depth discussions of historical events or women. The encyclopedia's "Reader's Guide" gives an overall structure of a categorical listing that includes topics such as Education, Sexualities, War and Conflict, Health: Mental and Physical, with each category listing varied and focused alphabetical entries. However, the encyclopedia is organized by the complete list of all the entries, or articles as the editors call them, placed alphabetically throughout the four volumes. The reader can then choose to use the "Reader's Guide" to find an article related to a specific categorical theme or the "List of Articles" that lists all entries alphabetically and can be found at the beginning of each volume.

Individual entries vary from multiple-page descriptions of