

SOURCES

out, “this is a history encyclopedia, as opposed to a technical encyclopedia,” the focus in writing is describing a topic over time instead of as “a pure technical description of ‘what it is’” (xxx). An article on the planet Mercury, for example, will still have many scientific facts regarding that planet, but they will be presented within a historical narrative identifying who discovered each fact, when and how it was discovered, and how the discoveries relate to other discoveries and historical events. Further, since the editors contend that information on prominent individuals of the space program can easily be found in other reference sets, they chose to integrate the historically important activities of these individuals within the historical narrative of relevant articles and to describe their contributions in brief, hundred-word sidebar entries. Only Wernher von Braun and Sergei Korolev—the “fathers” or “czars” of the two opposing space programs of the United States and former Soviet Union—are profiled in full-length articles.

Viewing the development of space exploration as a historical continuum, from two superpowers racing to gain a foothold and competitive advantage in space through the increasingly pervasive nature of space-related systems in the daily lives and activities of everyone in our global community, this set offers a different perspective and has earned a place on the shelf beside competitive sets offering a more technical approach. Indeed, with its consideration of “societal aspects of the space program,” and entries devoted to popular culture, space education, the media, and the economics of spaceflight, it is a welcome addition.

With space probes traveling into deep space and telescopes scanning the heavens to learn more about the universe surrounding us, and the importance that space exploration will have for future generations throughout the world, this authoritative set documenting the history of our past efforts will fill an important gap in the literature of space historiography. International in scope, avoiding a NASA-centric or U.S.-centric view, and written by leading space historians, this set will serve as an essential resource in university collections for many years to come.—*R. Neil Scott, User Services Librarian, Middle Tennessee State University*

World Consumer Income and Expenditure Patterns 2011. 11th ed. London: Euromonitor International, 2010. 554 p. \$475 (ISBN 978-1-84264-531-4).

This information rich resource from the premier business information provider Euromonitor International presents data from a global perspective about how consumers earn and spend their money. Valuable socioeconomic indicators, such as earnings, income, and expenditures, are categorized using various demographic attributes. The data are extensive and up to date. It covers seventy-one countries over a nineteen-year time span from 1990 to 2009.

This resource is the result of combining Euromonitor International's former titles *World Income Distribution* and *World Consumer Spending*. The overall organization, using a single volume, will enable users to track trends and to understand

the overall picture of consumption worldwide by showing aggregate consumer patterns over time.

This well-designed one-volume book is organized into fifteen sections as outlined succinctly in the summary of contents: introduction, socioeconomic parameters, annual household income, annual per capita income, tax and social security, annual gross earnings, annual gross income by source, Gini coefficient, annual disposable income by sex, household annual disposable income by decile, household annual disposable income brackets, consumer expenditure, consumer expenditure by commodity, consumer expenditure by purpose, and country snapshots

The table of contents lists each table title and a two-page overview that provides a short synopsis on each section. An invaluable feature of this resource is the glossary, which explains the important Gini coefficient that is a specialized measure about the equality of wealth distribution that is referenced in many tables.

The consumption information is very detailed. The resource covers spending on items such as alcoholic beverages, clothing, communications, education, food, footwear, health goods and medical services, hotels and catering, household goods and services, housing, leisure and recreation, and transport.

The set could have been enhanced by including an index. Despite this shortcoming, this book is highly recommended because this type and detailed level of consumer information is often challenging to find by other means. This resource will be highly valued by international business professionals for identifying business opportunities and for creating competitive advantage. It would also be invaluable for government policymakers interested in country intelligence. Therefore, this resource is especially recommended for special industry and association libraries, policymaking institutions, and academic business libraries.—*Caroline Geck, MLS, MBA, Educational Media Specialist, Newark Public Schools, New Jersey*

World Directory of Business Information Sources. 2nd ed. London: Euromonitor International, 2010. 2vols. \$475 (ISBN 978-1-84264-528-4).

This information rich resource from the premier business information provider Euromonitor International is a global directory in the English language of approximately twenty-two thousand organizations, publishers, and websites that offer various types of business information across approximately eighty-two major industries, including the economic indicators industry, and from approximately eighty-two countries.

This set has two volumes and uses an especially small font because of the wealth of information. The most valuable information is the comprehensive contact information for each entry, such as official organization names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, fax numbers, websites, publications, and language. Brief descriptions follow the