

SOURCES

libraries.—Annette M. Healy, *Librarian, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan*

Encyclopedia of Science and Technology Communication. Ed. by Susanna Hornig Priest. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage Reference, 2010. 2 vols. acid free \$350 (ISBN 9781-4129-5920-9). E-book available (978-1-4129-5921-6), \$440.

According to the introduction, this work is aimed at the emerging field of science communication. The research in this field is focused on understanding the best ways to communicate complex science concepts to a general population. It relies on an interdisciplinary approach to identify diverse aspects of a scientific question or issue. Science communication scholars are usually social scientists who rely on media theory to understand the influence of messages and content based on science. The focus of this work is to provide information on the “entire range of interrelated issues in one place,” while acknowledging that much of the information can be found in elsewhere (xxvii).

The two volume set is organized with a list of entries and a reader's guide at the beginning of volume 1. The reader's guide section nests the entries into subject categories like “Associations and Organizations” or “Challenges, Issues and Controversies.” The contributors are listed with their affiliation. The introduction by the editor puts the work in context, gives an overview of the concept of science communication, and identifies the goals the editor hopes to achieve with the work. Appendixes include an annotated list of science communication programs and an annotated bibliography of resources associated with each entry. The index to the work is extensive, granular, and thorough.

The entries vary from biographies of people, explanation of concepts, overviews of organizations, and descriptions of information resources. They vary in length and depth in the treatment of the subjects. Most have “see also” referrals to other entries in the volumes as well as suggesting further readings, which can be journal articles, books, reports, or websites. Each entry is signed.

I found the introduction to this work to be very interesting and most helpful in understanding the concept of science communication, the types of people who are engaged in this discipline, and the kinds of research they do. However, the expressed goal of attempting to “provide as much information as possible on this entire range of interrelated issues in one place” for this discipline is questionable and probably not very realistic (xxvii). The content in the volumes is uneven. While some of the entries are well known subjects and are lengthy, such as the one on abortion, which gives a great deal information on legal cases and concepts, one wonders about the need to include overviews of journals, such as “Issues in Science and Technology” and others. Another issue is the reality that all the entries dealing with current issues, such as abortion or climate change, will be dated even as the volume is published. The list of science communication programs in the appendixes includes personnel contacts that surely change relatively often.

The editor suggest that the volumes would be useful to undergraduate students and graduate students in journalism and related fields as well as working journalists and public information specialists. This information can be found elsewhere in more authoritative sources. One would hope that our journalists and students studying to be journalists are being trained to seek out primary research.

Perhaps this work would be better conceived in a different, more focused format, such as a textbook in science communication. It seems that this format would be more valuable as a starting point for those engaged in the discipline than a reference work. An important part of any scholar's work is to know how to find the up-to-date information they need in primary literature and not rely on a compilation of past research.

I would not recommend this work. At \$350 for the two volume set it is relatively moderately priced for a reference work but most of the content is duplicated elsewhere.—*Suzanne T. Larsen, Interim Associate Director for Public Services, University of Colorado Libraries, Boulder*

Environmental Issues, Global Perspectives. By James Fargo Balliett. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference, 2010. 5 vols. alkaline \$249 (ISBN 978-0-7656-8097-6).

James Fargo Balliett's *Environmental Issues, Global Perspectives* is a five-volume series focusing on environmental impacts in several different ecosystems and biomes: forests, freshwater, mountains, oceans, and wetlands. These volumes range from 152 to 155 pages and each contain an introduction to the biome, seven global case studies, maps of the case studies, and a conclusion. Each volume also includes a glossary, selected websites, further reading, and an index. Black-and-white photographs, charts, and graphs enhance the text throughout.

The case studies are one of the major strengths of this series because they provide readers with an in-depth look at some specific examples of environmental change occurring within these ecosystems. For example, in the Mountains volume, some selected locations chosen as case studies include the Himalayan Range, Southeast Asia; Presidential Range, New Hampshire; Southern Alps, New Zealand; and Ural Mountains, Russia. Each case study contains a brief description of the site, information about the human uses and impact upon the region, examples of pollution and damage to the area, and attempts made to manage and conserve the location.

Environmental Issues, Global Perspectives is especially useful for its currency. Balliett provides up-to-date information on how these biomes have been drastically altered during the past few decades along with some helpful statistics and figures on population, pollution levels, deforestation, water shortages, and oil spills. One possible weakness is the seemingly anonymous author. Balliett writes very well and appears to be an expert on these subject matters. However, no author credentials or institutional affiliations are stated, which typically are standard practices for most scholarly reference sources.

The two-volume *Encyclopedia of Global Change: Environmental Change and Human Society* (Oxford University Press, 2002), edited by Andrew S. Goudie is comparable yet much larger in scope. Goudie's encyclopedia is organized alphabetically by entry, which makes it more difficult to compile extensive information on many of the ecosystems and human impacts addressed in *Environmental Issues, Global Perspectives*. Individuals researching information on these specific biomes can also use Balliett's set with greater ease.

Balliett states in the preface of each volume, "The overarching goal of the series is to explore how human population growth and behavior have changed the world's natural areas, especially in negative ways, and how the modern society has responded to the challenges these changes present—often through increased educational efforts, better conservation, and management of the environment" (viii). The human population, pollution, and waste rates are growing at such drastic rates that frequently updated sources similar to Balliett's are necessary to educate the general public about these global environmental changes in hopes that solutions will be discovered. These volumes can be purchased separately or as a complete set. Highly recommended for both public and academic libraries.—Megan Coder, Senior Assistant Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz

Every Day of the Civil War: A Chronological Encyclopedia. By Bud Hannings. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2010. 631 p. alkaline \$125 (ISBN 978-0-7864-4464-9). E-book available (978-0-7864-5612-3), call for pricing.

Every Day of the Civil War presents an almost daily chronological record of events during the years of the American Civil War, 1861–1865; some of the entries contain thousands of words. Actually, the book covers from 1850 to 1866, including discussions of occurrences happening during the decade leading up to the war through the death of Gen. Winfield Scott on May 29, 1866. In addition, there are seven appendixes, offering a count of casualties, rosters of Union and Confederate generals, a list of prominent Union naval officers and battles, and a roll call of Medal of Honor recipients. The appendixes are followed by a brief bibliography and a comprehensive index. Black-and-white illustrations, portraits, and maps—many from *Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War*—are sprinkled throughout the volume, adding to its appeal.

As first-rate and well-written as this recently published reference book is, it joins other resources that cover the same territory. For example, in 1971 Doubleday & Co. published *The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac, 1861—1865*, by E. B. Long, and in 2007, Zenith Press issued Philip Katcher's book, *The American Civil War: Day by Day*. Both are available in part through Google Books, and both do essentially the same thing as *Every Day of the Civil War*; neither, though, is listed in its bibliography. Additionally online, "The Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War" (<http://valley.lib.virginia.edu>) offers an excellent chronological look at the conflict. Finally, when I worked at The New

Jersey Historical Society in the mid-1970s, we had a special collection of newspapers published in New Jersey, bound and arranged by date from April 1861 to April 1865, to track the war and its effects in the state.

Every Day of the Civil War should appeal to libraries serving high school, college, and graduate school students. In these days of increasingly tight acquisitions budgets, librarians need to consider whether to spend the money for the volume or rely on other electronic or out of print resources that may be sufficient for their and their users' purposes. The volume is certainly worth the investment. The electronic version of the book was not available for review. I assume it takes advantage of the kinds of access and searching versatilities that the computer offers.—E. Richard McKinstry, Library Director and Andrew W. Mellon Senior Librarian, Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library, Winterthur, Delaware

The Forties in America. Ed. by Thomas Tandy Lewis. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2010. 3 vols. alkaline \$364 (ISBN 978-1-58765-659-0). Online access included with purchase of print.

The Forties in America, the next Decades Series installment from Salem Press, is most striking because of its capacity to serve as a useful reference to the United States during World War II, both abroad and on the home front. Each twentieth century decade in the United States has one key event that serves as a turning point, the editor notes, but World War II defined the better part of the 1940s. The first part of the decade was spent in direct combat, while the latter part was adjusting to a new international status as a political and military superpower.

Many of the alphabetical entries discuss the war directly, with an abundance of information on battles, military services, weapons, and commanders. The "G.I. Bill," "Dwight D. Eisenhower," and "Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings," provide concise overviews of significant events. All entries include one, two, or three ready reference statements at the beginning that usually provide relevant dates and a short identification or description. A short bibliography and cross-references are provided after each entry.

Not all topics are related to the war; particular emphasis is devoted to social and cultural events of the decade, with entries like the "Howdy Doody Show" and "Billie Holiday." However, many entries are still framed within the context of the war, and the impact is purposely discussed within the entry. Both the "Ford Motor Company" and the "Jitterbug" entries note how the war impacted either the operations or popularity of the topic. Hundreds of black-and-white photos and maps are featured throughout, which are especially helpful when included with entries about major war campaigns and battles.

Similar works include Weatherford's *American Women during World War II* (Routledge, 2010). While limited in time and scope, several topics are examined in both. Rosie the Riveter, for example, is addressed in both reference tools, but explored with greater depth and historical context in Weatherford's work. These two reference tools could complement each other,