

***Encyclopedia of Family Health.*** Ed. Martha Craft-Rosenberg and Shelley-Rae Pehler. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage, 2011. 2 vols. \$350 (ISBN 978-1-4129-6918-5). E-book available (978-1-4129-9407-1), \$440.

The compilation's objectives are to advance knowledge and enhance family health by presenting a scholarly treatment of health and well-being from a family perspective. This well-designed reference was edited by Martha Craft Rosenberg, Professor Emeritus, University of Iowa College of Nursing, and Shelly-Rae Pehler, Associate Professor, Department of Nursing, St. Ambrose University. The editors conducted literature and database searches to identify top experts. This two-volume encyclopedia presents 350 two- to four-page articles written by these experts and prepared under the guidance of a ten-member editorial board.

Many entry titles reflect current national issues, such as "Destruction of Family Home During Natural Disasters," "Disruptions [in] United States Military Families," "Job Loss Transition for Families," "Obesity, and Weight Problems, and Healthy Weight for Families," "Same-Sex Partner Rights," "Sport-Related Accidents and Injuries and the Family," and "War and Families." Other titles reflect controversial problems, such as "Homeless Families," "Illegal Alien Status and Family Health," "Immigration Status and Family Health," and "Refugees and Family Health." Sensitive subjects, such as "Incest in Families," and "Suicide in the Family" also are presented. Authoritative information is presented about frequently studied topics, such as the "Influence of Close Relationships on Health"; trends, such as "Grandparents Parenting"; and popular care-giving topics, such as "Babysitting and the Family," "Bullying and the Family," "Child Beginning School," "Childproofing Medications and Dangerous Agents," "College Transition for Families," "Last Child Leaving Home," and "Moving Effect on Health."

The reference is especially useful for higher education report writing, because of the superior design that provides quick topical access. Each essay has a paragraph-length introduction. The discussion layouts are fairly uniform. Most articles use subheadings in boldface to delineate discussion subtopics and summarize key points at the end and delineate them using the subheadings "summary" or "conclusion." Entries have extensive cross-references, and most entries give succinct bibliographies and websites listed in "Further Readings."

Topics are organized under one of eleven umbrella categories. These categories are "At-Risk Conditions and At-Risk Situations," "Education of Health Care Providers," "Factors Influencing Family Health," "Families Experiencing Acute Physical and Mental Illness," "Families Experiencing Chronic Physical and Mental Health Conditions," "Families Experiencing Transitions," "Family and the Health Care System," "Family Health Assessment," "Family Health Perspectives," "Family Interventions," and "Genetics and Families." Users will like the reader's guide classified by the eleven topical categories at the beginning of volume 1 and an alphabetical list of entries are supplied at each volume's start.

Volume 1 provides sections with biographical information about the editors and a listing of the contributors' academic affiliations. The introduction encourages readers to explore the background essays, "Defining Family: An Overview of Family Definitions from Historical Perspective," "Family Health Perspectives," and "Families: The Basic Unit of Societies." After the introduction is a single essay titled "The Relationship of Family to Health: Historical Overview." Because of its position at the beginning of volume 1, it is assumed that this essay is important and should be closely examined along with the Introduction.

At the end of volume 2 is an appendix that contains bibliographies for books, journal articles, reports, and websites and a listing of sixty-five journal titles. The resource guide will be useful for academic and professional libraries building print and digital library collections. The last section is an index. Main entries and entry pages are annotated in the index in boldface.

An electronic version is available through *Sage Reference Online*, and purchasers of the print encyclopedia can register for a free thirty-day online trial (<http://www.sagepub.com/freetrial>). Because of its specialized focus, the *Encyclopedia of Family Health* should be considered as a first purchase for higher education medical and social science collections.  
—Caroline Geck, Somers, New Jersey

***An Encyclopedia of Human Rights in the United States, 2nd ed.*** Ed. H. Victor Condé. Amenia, N.Y.: Grey House, 2011. 2 vols. \$225 (ISBN 978-1-5923-7290-4). E-book available (ISBN 978-1-5923-7301-7), call for pricing.

This two-volume, 1,835-page reference set is the updated, "post 9/11" edition of its predecessor, *Human Rights in the United States: A Dictionary and Documents* (ABC-Clio, 2000) by Rita Cantos Cartwright and H. Victor Condé. Including nearly 100 additional terms, Condé, now the sole named author, has drawn upon an additional decade of critical events, political developments, and legislation in producing this considerably improved and appropriately modernized product.

Divided into three main sections, its format is simple and straightforward: "Terms" (also referred to as "the dictionary"), "Primary Documents," and an appendix. Also worth mentioning is the 48-page introductory essay, which provides a well-written and clear overview of the broader themes to an extent that demonstrates the author's prowess and understanding of the subject matter.

Terms are listed alphabetically and numbered in sequence. Entries are uniform in that each begins with a definition of the term followed by several paragraphs of commentary, outlining its historical, political, and legal significance within the context of the United States. If one or more of the documents included in the later section have relevance to a particular term, they are given mention here. Lastly, the customary "see also" terms are listed, referencing each by number. With some entries listing well over 100 terms to "see," using numbers makes for a neat and compact list. The

## SOURCES

downside of this system, however, is the minor inconvenience of not being able to tell what terms are being suggested without flipping back to the table of contents to identify each by its given number.

The “Primary Documents” section begins halfway through the first volume and continues through the second. There are 106 documents in total, organized into 6 categories with the vast majority filed under “U.N. Related.” As explained in the section introduction, it is within the context of the United Nations that most U.S. international human rights activity occurs. Each document is prefaced by a list of helpful metadata including full official title, type of document, date of document, and other applicable descriptive information. Finally, the eighteen appendixes offer additional documents, charts, and other references to supplement the material in the two previous sections.

In the opening paragraph of the introduction and user’s guide, the author writes, “The most important service this text could provide is the imparting of the basic concepts, definitions, and theory of international human rights as they are presently understood in the national and international context” (xxiii). While the inquisitive researcher could surely piece together similar content from an array of other sources, many freely available, Condé’s encyclopedia does what any good work of reference on a specific subject should do: provide an authoritative and well-organized amassment of pertinent information and supplementary material in one convenient location.

But is it unique? Yes. It is written especially for an American audience, providing broad coverage of important human rights issues concerning the U.S. while accentuating their international scope and consequence. It is intended to educate the “average American” whose understanding of the subject is “narrow, inaccurate, and often fully erroneous” (xxiii). Other reference works this reviewer has encountered treat the subject of human rights, on the whole, from a purely global perspective. The *Encyclopedia of Human Rights* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2009) is an impressive 5-volume set containing essay-length entries for each country as well as other key human rights-related topics. Of lesser scope and scholarly value is the *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies* (CQ Pr., 2000) which, for this subject, is clearly outdated. Neither of these loosely comparable works contains full text primary documents or appendix items like those provide in Condé’s work.

Although well-written, compiled, and somewhat reasonably priced, *An Encyclopedia of Human Rights in the United States* is not necessarily a “must-have” library reference source. However, some professors of undergraduate-level political science courses covering topics of human rights might find this a convenient and reliable go-to source for their students. The introductory essay could perhaps even serve as a nice primer on the subject in general. In any case, the e-book version would likely be the preferred option.—Todd J. Wiebe, *Research & Instruction Librarian, Van Wylen Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan*

*Encyclopedia of Power*. Ed. Keith Dowding. Los Angeles: Sage, 2011. 755 p. \$175 (ISBN 978-1-4129-2748-2). E-book \$220 (ISBN 978-1-4129-9408-8).

The word “power” most often refers to social, versus physical, power. But the latter use is not that rare. Indeed, a search of large academic library OPACs using the subject term “power resources” yields hundreds of titles. The *Encyclopedia of Power* would be much more aptly named the *Encyclopedia of Political Power* or the *Encyclopedia of Social Power*. The single volume contains 381 signed articles ranging from 400 to 4,000 words on theories, phenomena, individuals, and events related to political and social power. Many of the 157 contributors are from abroad, primarily Europe. Editor Keith Dowding, a professor of political science at Australian National University, appreciates the uniqueness of power as a topic of study. He provides a short but edifying description of several current interdisciplinary themes in power research; this provides useful context. He also defines nearly all of the categories of the encyclopedia’s Reader’s Guide, a finding tool that groups articles by topic. A list of articles that should illustrate the volume’s breadth contains “Banks,” “Civil War,” “Discourse,” “E-Governance,” “Gunboat Diplomacy,” “Hegemony,” “League of Nations,” “Loyalty,” “The Media,” “Queer Theories of Power,” “Power and Testosterone,” and “Veiled Women.” The book also has an alphabetical entry list and exhaustive index. Dowding clarifies that the primary sources of material are the fields of political science, international relations, and sociology. Many articles are intended to touch on several disciplines at once. Those areas of study are not specifically delineated in the multidisciplinary articles, but good students should be able to identify the connections. Some longer articles have topic headings. Each ends with cross references and further readings. The content also includes a handful of graphics.

Dowding invited his contributors to offer their own perspectives on many of the work’s topics, along with providing the latest factual information. Thus, this work is a compilation of current theories of power applied to hundreds of phenomena and concepts, as well as biographies of people who have been influential in the field. It has no real peers in the literature, and is much more extensive in its approach to its subject than subject encyclopedias in the social and political sciences. The *Encyclopedia of Political Science* (Sage, 2011), the *Encyclopedia of Psychology* (ALA, 2000), and the *Encyclopedia of Sociology* (Gale, 2000) each include articles on power focusing on discipline-specific theories. Based on Dowding’s stated source of material, and a review of this encyclopedia’s entries, it seems that this book will be most useful for researchers of political science, international relations, and sociology. Its organization, content, and reasonable price should make it appealing to librarians. However, the ambiguity of this book’s title raises questions regarding the speed and frequency with which it will be used when its record is retrieved in an OPAC. Hopefully a harried researcher will either take the time to look at its catalog record and see that it deals with social/political power, or do a keyword or subject search for “power social sciences.” This access