

SOURCES

database (www.sage-reference.com). Highly recommended for college libraries.—*Colleen Lougen, Electronic Resources Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz.*

Salem Health: Cancer. Ed. by Jeffrey A. Knight. Salem Health. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2008. 4 vols. alkaline \$395 (ISBN 978-1-58765-505-0). Includes free access to online database version.

Salem, the publisher of the highly praised *Magill's Medical Guide* and the online database counterpart Salem Health, is rolling out new specialized encyclopedias that focus on specific topics of medicine and that are reviewed by panels of experts and updated by top health professionals. This easy-to-use four-volume reference is designed for use by laypersons, and it will assist them with personal questions about cancer, including living with cancer.

The 835 signed articles are alphabetically arranged and vary from one to five pages. In addition, 166 informational sidebars and 250 black-and-white photos and illustrations that are directly integrated into the text facilitate understanding these topics. The reference is especially useful for report writing at the secondary and early undergraduate levels because of the clarity of the content. Each article supplies a short definition of the topic, along with extensive cross-references and a bibliography of current resources. Topics are organized under one of seven umbrella categories: cancer biology, carcinogens, diseases and conditions, drugs or drug classes, medical specialties, procedures, and social and personal issues. Health consumers will like the fact that the categories are listed at the beginning of each essay and that a list of each title by category is furnished at the end of volume 4. Moreover, the essays follow a uniform and logical format based on which category the articles are placed. For example, articles that are categorized as "Diseases, symptoms, and conditions" usually list subheadings, such as other names for the health conditions, related conditions, a definition, risk factors, etiology and the disease process, incidence, symptoms, screening and diagnosis, treatment and therapy, and prognosis, prevention, and outcomes.

Much of the content classified under the social and personal issues category focuses on cultural information, including the health of specific ethnic groups, such as "African Americans and Cancer," "Africans and Cancer," "Ashkenazi Jews and Cancer," "Asian Americans and Cancer," "Latinos/Hispanics and Cancer," and "Native Americans and Cancer." The social and personal issues category also contains entries that address cancer at different stages of life, such as "Sexuality and Cancer," "Pregnancy and Cancer," "Childbirth and Cancer," "Aging and Cancer," and the "Elderly and Cancer." There is even an entry for "Living with Cancer." Many entries in this category deal with preparations for time near or after death, such as the entries for "Advance Directives," "End-of-Life Care," "Grief and Bereavement," "Hospice Care," "Informed Consent," "Living Will," and "Watchful Waiting."

This reference has many specialized appendixes, including information about cancer centers, hospitals, and cancer

support groups, a glossary, and an index. Main entry pages are annotated in the index in boldface. A value-added benefit of purchasing this print copy is an unlimited free subscription for three years to Salem Health's companion online database (<http://health.salempress.com>) with equivalent content. *Salem Health: Cancer* is a good choice for public and undergraduate health collections because of its authoritativeness and because it provides access to Salem Health. However, if libraries have already built a good health and medical collection and have limited budgets, or, alternatively, own the *Gale Encyclopedia of Cancer* (Gale, 2005), this resource should be deemed an optional purchase.—*Caroline Geck, Somerset, New Jersey*

Professional Materials

Karen Antell
Editor

Collaborative Library Research Projects: Inquiry that Stimulates the Senses. By John D. Volkman. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2008. 208p. paper \$39 (ISBN 978-1-59158-623-4).

Initially conceived and crafted as a practical guide for school library media specialists working with grades 7–12, this book promises to be useful and influential beyond its author's expressed intent. This handy reference is a fine embodiment of the much-discussed "embedded instruction" model of information literacy (IL). Volkman, a high school librarian, has partnered with several history instructors to develop discrete learning experiences that include library media center use as an integral component in investigating selected historical disciplines. For example, the author has developed a section for the study of World War II that transforms the library into a learning center with stations employing various multimedia, static displays, and, of course, books as primary sources. This is just the beginning; full lesson plans are included for student poster sessions ranging from novel topics such as "Evil Characters in History" to standby topics such as "Edgar Allan Poe." Each plan features intensive, intentional use of library resources, including significant attention to print resources.

With a little effort, the school librarian can collaborate with the teaching faculty in his or her school to develop stellar learning opportunities that prominently feature the library for little or no extra cost. Although Volkman's focus is history in grades 7–12, the lessons can be easily adapted to other disciplines. In fact, the present reviewer is a university instructor who uses these materials to great advantage in his teaching, including exercises involving the use of special collections. Included in this guide are several camera-ready handouts