

SOURCES

a little more thought could have been put into the organization process. For such a narrowly-focused encyclopedia, it would have been acceptable to organize the articles by section and category and to dispense with the alphabetical listing. The comprehensive index in the back of each volume would allow the reader to fill in the pieces.

Originally planned as a two-volume work, *Encyclopedia of Digital Government* was expanded to three volumes and comes with a hefty price tag, suggesting that it is geared to a highly specialized audience. A slightly less expensive, online-access-only option is available. Even so, it is likely to be of interest only to academic libraries, especially those with graduate programs in information science and public administration, and major research libraries.—*Christopher Lee Cochran, Sr. Reference Librarian, U.S. Senate Library, Washington, D.C.*

Encyclopedia of European Peoples. By Carl Waldman and Catherine Mason. Facts On File Library of World History. New York: Facts On File, 2006. 2 vols. acid free \$125 (ISBN 0-8160-4964-5).

This engrossing two-volume set by Carl Waldman and Catherine Mason contains both brief and in-depth entries describing the various peoples of Europe from ancient times to the present. In the preface, the authors define a people as a group sharing a common language, beliefs, history, origin, government, geography, and kinship. The encyclopedia contains more than five hundred entries accompanied by hundreds of noteworthy photographs, illustrations, and maps.

The format for longer entries, such as “Slavs,” includes basic information (location of the group, time period, ancestry, and language) and detailed information on origins, language, history, and culture (economy, government and society, military practices, technology, art, and religion), as well as a chronology of events and a further-readings bibliography. The entries for large groups are comprehensive, with the entry on the Slavs running a respectable thirty pages.

The medium-length entries usually address subgroups within the broader ethnic classifications, and include cross references as well as a basic fact sheet about the subgroup. An example is the “Cherusci,” who are categorized as a Germanic tribe. The shortest entries are typically for groups about which little is known. These restricted entries are only a paragraph long with cross references when available. For example, the entry for “Chamavi” contains only a few sentences and several cross references to larger groups such as Germanics, Amsivarri, Bructeri, and others.

The eight appendixes of the encyclopedia round out the collection masterfully. Some of the highlights include a list of alternate names and groupings for entries; a list of European peoples arranged by language, nationality, and region; a comprehensive listing of languages in Europe from ancient times to the present; and a chronology of European prehistory and history. Also included is a glossary of cultural terms, a bibliography, and a robust index.

Due to its comprehensive and well-designed contents, *Encyclopedia of European Peoples* eclipses comparable works such as *The Encyclopedia of World Cultures*, vol. 4 *Europe*

(*Central, Western, and Southeastern Europe*) edited by Linda A. Bennett (G. K. Hall, 1992) and *Peoples of the World: Western Europeans* by Joyce Moss and George Wilson (Gale, 1993). Recommended for high school libraries, public libraries, and college libraries.—*Colleen Lougen, Electronic Resources Librarian, SUNY New Paltz, New York*

Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature. By Mary Ellen Snodgrass. Facts On File Library of World Literature. New York: Facts On File, 2006. 784p. acid free \$85 (ISBN 0-8160-6040-1).

Ably edited by Mary Ellen Snodgrass and, at \$85, quite reasonably priced, *Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature* charts the spectrum of ways in which women have expressed themselves across cultures, across literary genres, and across time. It features more than five hundred alphabetically arranged, page-length entries, all accompanied by brief bibliographies of one to four items. In addition to an informative introductory essay and an extensive index, several appendixes are provided to enhance the *Encyclopedia's* utility as an information source. These include a list of authors by genres (autobiography, folklore, history, scholarly treatise, verse); a list of major fiction and nonfiction writers and their principal texts; a timeline of works by women (beginning with Sappho in 590 BC); separate bibliographies of primary and secondary sources; and a list of cinematic and television adaptations of feminist texts.

Like Kathy J. Whitson's reference handbook of the same title (Greenwood, 2004), the Facts On File *Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature* aims, on the one hand, to meet the needs of students, general readers, and novice researchers. But by including both more kinds of entries and more varied content, Snodgrass envisions an even broader audience for her *Encyclopedia*, a wider appeal, and potential reach. Some entries reflect her “close examination” of textbooks, reading lists, and the “syllabi of women's studies, literature, and social issues classes” (vii). Still others acknowledge emerging trends in scholarship and research. And some were suggested by “notable projects and seminars that have drawn together . . . writers, activists, and authorities on feminist concerns” (vii) in new or interesting ways.

Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature contains its share of the familiar and well-trod topics, of course; entries on issues such as patriarchy and suffrage, on figures such as Gilman and Plath, on theorists such as Irigaray and Cixous are necessary inclusions, even if they offer little information that is truly new. However, the *Encyclopedia* is enriched by coverage of writers, texts, and ideas that are less well recognized or that look different when we view them through the feminist lens. Indeed, users of the *Encyclopedia* are bound to be impressed by the diversity of what gets covered here: feminist theater, the theme of silencing, the legend of La Llorona, Judy Blume's young adult fiction, and the character of Hester Prynne, for example. Anglo and Anglo-American writers predominate, but ethnic, minority, and non-Western voices are sampled as well.

Concision is a strength of the *Encyclopedia*, but a weakness, too. Occasionally, as in the *Middlemarch* entry, analysis