

entries are not set off in any way from those in which a topic is merely mentioned in an article. And frequently, topics are not addressed in expected places within the index. For example, the entry for “*Plessy v. Ferguson*” is not indexed under “Race” or “Segregation,” though it is indexed under “Separate But Equal doctrine.” Though many of the articles have see-also references, these are not applied as often as would be desirable. Most of the entries on the court cases, for example, do not point to articles on related topics.

The most directly comparable work is David Schultz and John R. Vile’s *The Encyclopedia of Civil Liberties in America* (Sharpe Reference, 2005). This earlier encyclopedia is written for lower-level undergraduates or high school students. Finkelman’s work is pitched to undergraduate and higher level readers. Despite the minor problems and the relatively high price of *Encyclopedia of American Civil Liberties*, the solid and timely information make this a worthwhile set for most public and academic libraries to acquire.—*Michael Levine-Clark, Collections Librarian, Penrose Library, University of Denver, Colorado*

Encyclopedia of American Opera. By Ken Wlaschin. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2006. 480p. alkaline \$95 (ISBN 0-7864-2109-6).

Though the *New Grove Dictionary of Opera* (Macmillan, 1992) and its updated electronic version as part of *Grove Music Online* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2001–) remain the central reference sources for opera, Ken Wlaschin’s *Encyclopedia of American Opera*, with its focus on American repertoire, serves as a valuable supplement in an area where *Grove* is often lacking. Concerning any opera “written in English by an American-born composer or by a foreign-born composer living and working in the United States” (2), the encyclopedia features entries on the full range of American operas, from the earliest eighteenth-century examples through recent multimedia stage works. Listings for specific operas include a brief overview of plot, historical details of the premiere performance, and, when applicable, basic information on related sound and video recordings. Additionally, the book covers composers, singers, opera companies, popular arias, authors whose works have been adapted as operas, special subjects such as “African American Opera” and “First U.S. Operas on Radio,” and entries for each of America’s fifty states and the District of Columbia that highlight regional operatic activities.

Beyond opera in the classical tradition, Wlaschin also incorporates several references to Broadway musicals and other musical comedies and operettas, reflecting that though “an opera is recognizably different from a musical,” there often is crossover between genres. Because only musicals that have been “sung on stage or recorded by opera singers” (2) are listed, the coverage of musical theater is considerably selective. Given the encyclopedia’s decidedly operatic orientation, this approach is logical, but readers interested mainly in musical theater are advised to refer first to Kurt Gänzl’s *The Encyclopedia of the Musical Theatre* (2nd ed., Schirmer, 2001), which addresses the subject more directly and exhaustively.

By documenting a wide array of interrelated facts, *Encyclopedia of American Opera* accomplishes its purpose. Had Wlaschin included lengthier and more detailed plot synopses for the operas listed, the encyclopedia’s usefulness would be even greater, but, as the volume stands, it is a welcome complement to opera reference literature and appropriate for academic libraries supporting music research and performance.—*D. J. Hoek, Head, Northwestern University Music Library, Evanston, Illinois*

Encyclopedia of Digital Government. Ed. by Ari-Veikko Anttiroiko and Matti Malkia. Hershey, Pa.: Idea Group Reference, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$825 (ISBN 1-59140-789-3).

Almost fifteen years into the growth of Web-based, digital government processes, it certainly is time for a work like this one. *Encyclopedia of Digital Government* is a large and impressive effort in terms of scope, harnessing together the most comprehensive, up-to-date collection of key concepts, ideas, policies, and practices of digital government worldwide. The editors commendably chose to make this an inclusive work of international scope; the contributors are subject experts from around the world, although they are primarily, and not unexpectedly, from developed or industrialized countries. (The editors themselves are Finnish.)

Encyclopedia of Digital Government is an outstanding survey of something that touches everyone’s lives in some way on a daily basis. The encyclopedia approaches the concept of digital government cross-culturally and surveys government at the international, regional, national, and state levels. Management, public policy, and planning are covered as well, and so too are specific government services that benefit from the growth of information technology and its public policy applications, such as health care, social services, education, law enforcement, and democratization. Although others have focused their published efforts on individual aspects of digital government, there has generally not been such a collective effort before, approaching the subject in an encyclopedic fashion.

The format of each article is consistent throughout, so the reader knows what to expect. Each article has an introduction, background, a major concepts section, future trends, a conclusion, and then a bibliography and key terms. The consistent use of this format makes it easy to maneuver within each essay. The articles and writing are straightforward and informative, but do tend to read like an academic journal.

Two tables of contents, one alphabetical and one that classifies each entry by section and category, provide the access points to the user. The articles appear in the work in alphabetical order by the first word of the title. This results in articles about similar topics being located in different volumes, making it a little cumbersome if you are interested in one particular topic and would prefer to have all the articles on that topic gathered in one place. This problem is demonstrated by the entry titled “From E-Government to E-Democracy in China,” which is placed with all the other articles starting with the letter F. At that point, the reader realizes that

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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