

## 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.*

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***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*

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***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

tends toward the superficial and reductive. Sometimes, abstract ideas or concepts (“dreamscapes” and “goddess lore” are examples) read like lists of randomly selected literary instances—interesting and eclectic but not much more.

The quality of the appendixes is uneven. One wonders why the long, secondary-source bibliography is arranged alphabetically and not sorted into categories that would make it more practical to use. The selection principles for the filmography, moreover, are hardly clear. Margaret Edson’s play, *Wit*, merits an encyclopedia entry but the much-praised Mike Nichols’ film version from 2001 is absent from the list. A BBC-TV version of *Emma* (1996) is included, but not the 1997 Gwyneth Paltrow film; and the excellent 1986 miniseries of Fay Weldon’s *Lives and Loves of a She-Devil* is missing, although the Meryl Streep/Roseanne Barr movie *She-Devil* (1986) somehow makes the cut.

Although not an essential purchase, *Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature* is recommended for those institutions that lack the Greenwood text. There is much of value here.—Susan Gilroy, *Head of Reference Services, Lamont Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts*

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***Encyclopedia of Gender and Information Technology.*** Ed. by Eileen M. Trauth. Hershey, Pa.: Idea Group, 2006. 2 vols. acid free \$445 (ISBN 1-59140-815-6).

*Encyclopedia of Gender and Information Technology* is an excellent compilation of information on the history, current status, and future trends in the participation of women in information technology. The intent of the two-volume set is to compile the corpus of relevant gender research literature and to bring this literature into a single reference source. The *Encyclopedia* has been crafted with a wide audience in mind, including educators, parents, policy makers, managers, scholars, and students.

A few statistics will indicate the scope and quality of *Encyclopedia of Gender and Information Technology*. The two volumes feature 213 entries and more than 4,700 references to additional materials. More than 1,450 key terms with definitions are included. Contributions were made by 295 people from around the world who are experts in their respective fields and who are affiliated with high-quality higher educational institutions and other, related organizations. An editor-in-chief with impressive credentials directed this ambitious endeavor over several years, and an international advisory board ensured that there was extensive disciplinary and geographical coverage. A library will receive free institution-wide online access for the life of the edition with purchase of the print set.

Entries in *Encyclopedia of Gender and Information Technology* are only a few pages in length and follow a standard format of introduction, background, research, future trends, and conclusions. Scholarly in tone and language, the entries are focused, concise, and well written, but still easily within the reach of people outside the field of gender studies. Each entry includes a long list of references as well as key terms and definitions. The *Encyclopedia* is straightforward in its or-

ganization and has an index of key terms as well as an index and a table of contents. Illustrations are minimal and the text is attractively presented. A small number of entries in the beginning of the volume present an agenda for research on gender diversity in the global information economy.

A search of WorldCat and the Library of Congress catalog revealed that this is the only reference work of its kind. There are many encyclopedias available on information technology. Likewise, there are a number of offerings dealing with issues related to gender and gender studies but none that address both areas. Not only does *Encyclopedia of Gender and Information Technology* fill a gap in the literature, but it also confronts a significant and timely topic that has long-term implications for the future of women as well as for global economic development. The entries in the *Encyclopedia* confirm a serious and worldwide phenomenon of the declining numbers of women in information technology fields, including such key areas as computer science, information systems, systems development, and software engineering. Entries also consider such diverse issues as: differences in how women communicate using computers; implications for online education; participation in and use of interactive games, e-health, and e-government; and the interplay between gender and other diversity characteristics. Most importantly, the *Encyclopedia* highlights a full spectrum of economic, social, and human rights issues that are a consequence of not having access to information technology in the 21st century. Rather than relying on anecdotal evidence, the information presented in the entries is based on a foundation of rigorous research methods and scholarly literature. Conclusions to the entries point to the need for more research and should also serve as a call to action for government agencies, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and the information technology industry itself.

*Encyclopedia of Gender and Information Technology* would be a useful addition to the collections of many types of libraries. It would serve as an excellent starting point for further research, and the price is quite reasonable. It is most appropriate for academic libraries and libraries that serve government agencies and nonprofit organizations that deal with women’s issues, economic development, developing nations, international trade, and education and training.—Sara Anne Hook, *Professor and Associate Dean, Indiana University School of Informatics, Indianapolis*

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***The Encyclopedia of Magic and Alchemy.*** By Rosemary Ellen Guiley. New York: Facts On File, 2006. 384p. alkaline \$82.50 (ISBN 0-8160-6048-7).

Rosemary Guiley’s encyclopedic work is intended “only [to] give an overview and a glimpse of a topic as if seen through a glass darkly” (ix). The four hundred brief entries in A–Z order are intended to be a first resource on a topic. One can start by discovering that the magical word “abracadabra” actually has an origin and use, and end by learning about the ancient alchemist Zosimos. Those wishing to learn more can pursue a topic through further readings listed in one or