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*

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*

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

more of the bibliographic citations that follow most entries. A complete bibliography is also provided. At the end of the book an excellent and extensive index includes indicators of which entries include illustrations.

The scope of this work reaches back to ancient Egypt, into the classical world, through the Middle Ages, and into contemporary society. Topics covered include magical lore and traditions, philosophies, rituals, materials, procedures, famous personalities, and their relevance to modern science. It should be noted that the work is not a "how to" book for the amateur magician.

The publisher suggests this work is a result of interest in magic that has been rekindled by the recent success of popular fiction and films such as the Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings works. This reviewer would propose that throughout the millennia, interest in the supernatural has never waned. There have been and continue to be numerous compilations about magic, the occult, the paranormal, alchemy, mysticism, spirituality, and the like. The paranormal has long been used to explain what is incomprehensible or yet to be understood, assisting humans in understanding the world and, ultimately, understanding themselves and their relationship to that which falls into the realm of the divine.

There are a plethora of related works. Guiley herself wrote an earlier compilation titled *Encyclopedia of Strange, Mystical, and Unexplained* (Gramercy, 2001), which is a one-volume encyclopedia with black-and-white photographs and illustrations, containing five hundred entries on people, places, techniques, and events of the fabulous and fantastic, the mystical and unexplainable. John Michael Greer wrote *The New Encyclopedia of the Occult* (Llewellyn Pub., 2003), which has 1,500 well-illustrated entries accompanied by an extensive bibliography. In this reviewer's opinion, the best entry-level two-volume work on this topic remains Leslie Shepard's *Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology* (3d ed., Gale, 1991). This work is actually a fusion of two earlier one-volume works, Nandor Fodor's *Encyclopaedia of Psychic Science* (Arthurs Pr., 2003) and Lewis Spence's *Encyclopaedia of Occultism* (Apt Bks., 1984). These two earlier works get surpassed by the inclusion of revisions and additional up-to-date information. Shepard's work is a comprehensive publication that even includes articles about occult magicians such as Bonewits and critics of the paranormal such as Randi. Last and not to be overlooked is the twenty-four-volume *Man, Myth, and Magic: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Supernatural,* edited by Richard Cavendish (Marshall Cavendish, 1970). Although many years out of print, this substantial compilation has numerous informative articles on just about every conceivable occult or supernatural topic, complete with lots of color illustrations.

As an entry-level work covering an extensive range of subjects on this fascinating and broad topic, *The Encyclopedia of Magic and Alchemy* is strongly recommended for high school, college, and university library collections.—*David M. Fagerstrom, Faculty Director, Science Library, University of Colorado, Boulder*

Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball Clubs. Ed. by Steven A. Reiss. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2006. 2 vols. acid free $199.95 (ISBN 0-313-32991-5).

Sports historians and baseball fans will treasure this work's in-depth histories of active major league baseball teams. Editor Steven A. Reiss, an accomplished historian with several titles on sports in culture and history to his credit, opens with a detailed yet brief historical overview of major league baseball. Team histories in thirty chapters follow, with the older National League covered in volume 1 and the American League in volume 2. Authored largely by writers from academia, the team histories not only chronicle the successes and failures of teams on the field, but cover management and labor practices, economic developments, media influences, and even fan reactions. Throughout, attention has been given to larger social issues that transcend baseball. For example, baseball's struggle to achieve racial equality, from the racist outbursts of Ty Cobb to the courageous tolerance of Jackie Robinson, is reported in detail. Each chapter concludes with lists of notable achievements, including team batting and pitching records, award winners, and a chronology of managers. A helpful and current team bibliography is also provided.

One limitation of this work is its focus on current major league teams. Teams that have endured by changing place or name are discussed within the context of their current homes, meaning that for a discussion of the St. Louis Browns, one must turn to the chapter on the Baltimore Orioles (the St. Louis Browns became the Baltimore Orioles in 1953). Teams now defunct may not be discussed at all, leaving it to readers to turn to other more comprehensive works such as Donald Dewey and Nicholas Acocella's *Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball Teams* (HarperCollins, 1993).

Unlike similar reference works, such as Dennis Purdy's *The Team-by-Team Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball* (Workman, 2006), statistics do not dominate this work. Reiss shares the bulk of his statistical content through seventeen appendixes, and rather than focus on records, these statistics help to provide further context and color for the team histories by sharing historical numbers on attendance, profit and loss, and player salaries. The look and feel of the work follows from the tone of its serious historical narratives; like many scholarly works, it is plain and unadorned. Each chapter includes only about two black-and-white images. For a sport so rich in imagery, more photographs (including some in color) would have been an intriguing addition to this work. A similar, older work, *Professional Sports Team Histories: Baseball,* edited by Michael L. LaBlanc (Gale, 1994), includes many more photographs and is far more engaging in its layout. The index to the *Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball Clubs,* which is found only at the end of volume 2, could be easier to use. For example, subentries under main entries wrap in paragraph style rather than appearing as lists, making it a struggle for the eye to pick out needed entries.

Although historians and fans can turn to stand-alone team histories for more comprehensive discussions, this work provides an excellent and up-to-date starting point, oftentimes

skillfully placing baseball within the larger framework of U.S. history. This work is recommended for academic library collections in support of both the general undergraduate curriculum and advanced programs in sports history. Other libraries with strong baseball or sports history collections will also want to consider this solid, yet modest work.—*Ken Burhanna, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Kent State University, Ohio*

Encyclopedia of Measurement and Statistics. Ed. by Neil J. Salkind. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2006. 3 vols. acid free $395 (ISBN 1-4129-1611-9).

The stated objective of the editor of this set is to provide the general reader with a source of information on statistics as applied to the social sciences, particularly psychology. The encyclopedia contains entries on experimental methods, techniques, sampling, analysis, and statistical tests. Nearly one hundred psychometric assessment tests, such as the Myers-Briggs Inventory and Clinical Assessment of Depression, have individual entries describing their history, the test, forms, and uses.

The entries are written by academics in the fields of psychology and statistics and range in length from several paragraphs to several pages depending on the complexity and importance of the subject. The clarity of the entries varies according to the subject and author; the level of writing is uneven. For example, the entries on Eigenvalues and Fourier Analysis include dense discussions of high-level mathematics, which is not in keeping with the level of the audience targeted by the editor and evident for the majority of the entries. In contrast, the entry for z scores, a much simpler topic, is clear and easily understandable. In any case, the general reader is more interested in the meaning of the values that statistical software generates, such as probability $p,$ than the detailed mathematics that produced them.

The nonmathematical topics are generally well written and lack excessive jargon. These topics also include those more interesting to the general public, such as ethics in testing and IQ testing. Most entries include suggestions for further reading. Additional material includes appendixes for Internet sites, critical values, a glossary, and master bibliography. The set is appropriate for undergraduate and large public libraries.—*Sara Parsons, Reference Librarian, Oregon, Ohio*

The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War: A Political, Social, and Military History. Ed. by Gregory Fremont-Barnes and Richard Alan Ryerson. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 2006. 5 vols. acid free $485 (ISBN 1-85109-408-3).
[Ed. note: Also see the review of *American Revolutionary War: A Student Encyclopedia,* ed. by Gregory Fremont-Barnes and Richard Alan Ryerson (ABC-Clio, 2006), page 81.]

This encyclopedia demonstrates the value of books in the Internet age. It comprehensively and authoritatively presents the people, battles, and issues of the American Revolution, plus scores of primary sources, in an attractive and highly usable format.

The first four volumes contain more than one thousand signed entries on subjects as expected as a biography of John Adams and as obscure as the fight at Tarrant's Tavern, North Carolina. Coverage includes creation of the U.S. Constitution four years after the war. These volumes each provide an alphabetical list of all the encyclopedia's entries, a list of maps, a set of general maps, and an index. The first volume includes a preface, "Putting the American Revolution in Perspective," and two essays on the origins of the revolution and the military operations in it. At the end of the fourth volume are a comparison of army ranks, a chronology, a glossary, a list of editors and contributors, and a long general bibliography. Each subject entry also includes a bibliography.

The last volume is a treasure, especially for students learning how to do research in primary sources. It has 154 original documents as varied as "Letter of a Boston Loyalist (1774)" and "Nathanael Green's View on Quaker Pacifism (1775 and 1777)," and as momentous as the "Stamp Act (1765)" and the "Virginia Declaration of Rights." The documents are preceded by introductions.

The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War: A Political, Social, and Military History should be compared with the student version of the same material, *American Revolutionary War: A Student Encyclopedia*, from the same publisher and editors (see first review in this section). *The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War* is, in many respects, similar to *The American Revolution 1775–1783: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Richard L. Blanco, (Garland, 1993). The new set does have numerous black-and-white illustrations lacking in the older work, but libraries with tight budgets that own Blanco's wide-ranging encyclopedia can get by with it. More to the point these days may be comparisons to Wikipedia. Some of the less-famous subjects found in *The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War* are not included in the popular Web-based encyclopedia. On more famous subjects, Wikipedia's strengths include color illustrations and the links it provides to related subjects, but the paper encyclopedia holds its own with longer articles, as well as with the bibliographies and the authority of authors. All in all, the new encyclopedia is a worthy project and, if they can afford it, deserves purchase by librarians looking for a good resource about the birth of the United States.—*Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism Since 1450. Ed. by Thomas Benjamin. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2006. 3 vols. alkaline $395 (ISBN 0-02-865843-4).

This new reference work focuses on the colonial empires of West European nations and the United States, but it also gives space to the colonial expansion of Japan, the Ottomans, and Russia. The editors, led by historian Thomas Benjamin, organized an international corps of scholars to contribute more than four hundred articles on a broad range of topics