

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*

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***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*

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***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