

## SOURCES

historical and political situation. This concept presents a fascinating opportunity to compare the life, work, outlook, and attitudes of young people all over the world. Because most of the 141 contributors to this work are native to the countries about which they are writing, the viewpoint is authentic and authoritative.

Another reference work concerned with this topic is edited by Shirley Steinberg et al., *Contemporary Youth Culture: An International Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2005). This two-volume title, however, approaches the subject from a sociological and psychological point of view and is organized by subject rather than by country. In spite of the term “international,” *Contemporary Youth Culture* focuses on North America, Europe, and Japan and does not deal with South America or Africa.

An older reference work, edited by Richard M. Lerner, Anne C. Petersen, and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, is the *Encyclopedia of Adolescence* (Garland, 1991). This title takes a subject approach. Although the two hundred articles are well researched and indexed, the work is limited to the American adolescent.

*The Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood and Adolescence*, edited by Jerome Kagan and Susan Gail (Thomson Gale, 1997) covers the entire spectrum of child development through seven hundred entries of multidisciplinary information. Again, the focus is American children and the age range is wider than that of the *International Encyclopedia of Adolescence*.

*Adolescence in America: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Jacqueline V. Lerner, Richard M. Lerner, and Jordan Finkelstein (ABC-CLIO, 2001), is a two-volume work emphasizing the social, psychological, and physical development of American teens. It has the advantage of being available online and is aimed at general readers.

None of the previously mentioned reference sources take the approach of the *International Encyclopedia of Adolescence*, which offers an important contribution to the field of human development scholarship with its overview of the socio-political-cultural climate of youth the world over. As inclusive as this work is, (twenty-eight African countries, eighteen Asian countries; twenty-seven European countries, fifteen American countries) there are some areas missing (Korea, Cuba, Bolivia, among others). But the work is truly unique in gathering detailed information on the context in which young people from every part of the world are growing up and finding their places in society. This title is recommended for libraries in high schools, community colleges, four-year liberal arts colleges, and public libraries.—Betty Porter, Assistant Director for Education Services, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio

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***The Praeger Handbook of Adoption.*** Ed. by Kathy Shepherd Stolley and Vern L. Bullough. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2006. 2 vols. alkaline \$275 (ISBN 0-313-3335-1).

The two-volume *Praeger Handbook of Adoption* aims to be a “comprehensive overview of adoption” and a “basic reference for anyone interested in the history and practice

of adoption or involved in the adoption process” (xxv). The entries, varying in length from a few paragraphs to several pages, draw from a wide variety of disciplines in the humanities, the sciences, and the social sciences (both scholarly and applied). Coverage ranges from the treatment of adoption in literary works and religion to adoption laws and adoption medicine. Although adoption outside the United States is addressed, coverage of adoption and foster care in this country is more extensive. Interspersed throughout the two volumes are excerpts and reprints from primary documents “to illustrate particular perspectives as well as highlight notable events in the history of adoption in the United States” (xxv). A nice feature is the “General Topical List of Original Content” for each volume, which is helpful even if incomplete. Cross references are utilized throughout the volumes, although not as extensively as they could be, and each entry has a further reading list at the end. The volumes conclude with appendixes containing lengthy primary documents that “highlight themes in the history or current arena of U.S. adoption” (675) and that supplement the excerpts found throughout the *Handbook*, as well as a selected bibliography of adoption and foster care and related issues, although the selection criteria are not listed.

The two publications that most closely resemble the *Praeger Handbook* in purpose and scope are Christine Ademec and Laurie C. Miller’s recently updated *Encyclopedia of Adoption* (Facts On File, 2003), a single-volume reference covering the social, legal, economic, psychological, and political issues surrounding adoption, and Barbara Moe’s now-dated *Adoption: A Reference Handbook* (ABC-CLIO, 1998), intended primarily for students writing research papers. Although there is some overlap in content, the *Praeger Handbook* provides deeper coverage, particularly historical, for those desiring an in-depth understanding of the topics related to adoption.

While the content of the *Praeger Handbook* is unique and quite comprehensive, the volumes are somewhat difficult to navigate for a few reasons. The most glaring is that the index appears only in the second volume, requiring the user to jump back and forth between the two when searching for topics in the first half of the alphabet. The second is that the entries tend to run into one another due to the small font size of the headings and the fact that the sidebars and excerpts are not always indented or set off from the rest of the text with a shaded background. Somewhat confusing is the choice of terms for, and lack of consistency in, the entry headings. For example, “adoption rituals” are listed as “rituals, adoption,” yet “adoption insurance” is listed in that order rather than “insurance, adoption.” Also, despite the effort to cover the field broadly, there are some omissions—“toddler adoption,” for example.

Despite its weaknesses, the *Praeger Handbook* fills a niche unmet by any other reference work. For the researcher looking to gain a deeper understanding of adoption from multiple perspectives, and a historical one in particular, the *Praeger Handbook* is a valuable tool. It is most suitable for academic and special libraries that serve scholars and practitioners in

the social sciences. Public libraries may find that the less expensive *Encyclopedia of Adoption* meets their needs sufficiently until the ABC-Clio *Handbook* is updated.—*Joann E. Donatello, Population Research Librarian, Donald E. Stokes Library, Princeton University, New Jersey*

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**Satellites.** Frontiers in Space series. By Joseph A. Angelo Jr. New York: Facts On File, 2006. 336p. acid free \$39.50 (ISBN 0-8160-5772-9).

*Satellites* is Joseph A. Angelo Jr.'s most recent contribution to Facts On File's Frontiers in Space series, a multivolume set targeted to high school students that "explores the scientific principles, technical applications, and impacts of space technology on modern society" (ix). This volume is a fine addition to the series. The author succeeds in meeting the set's mission by effectively interweaving the scientific, technical, historical, commercial, and political aspects of the development of satellite technology. Through its twelve chapters, seventy black-and-white photographs and illustrations, sidebars, chronology, glossary, and index, *Satellites* provides a basic yet thorough introduction to the subject. Through narrative that is engaging, informative, and at times, impassioned, Angelo answers the questions, "what Earth-orbiting spacecraft are, where they came from, how they work, and why they are so important" (xv).

The volume is sensibly arranged, with chapter 1 providing a solid historical foundation as well as a preview of the entire work. The concluding section of this chapter, "Satellites Transform Human Civilization," identifies six broad areas profoundly impacted by satellite technology. These correspond to the different satellite types that are the focus of subsequent chapters (for example, "Weather Satellites," "Military Satellites," and "Communication Satellites"). These chapters effectively illuminate the complex factors involved in technological change and provide insight into the broader context and impact of the work of aerospace engineers. There is some repetition of concepts and events because chapter content unfolds in parallel historical sequences, but this may serve as reinforcement of key details and themes for readers.

Basic concepts related to satellite orbital theory and design are presented in chapter 2, "How a Satellite Works," although many technical terms used in this chapter and elsewhere are not defined at first use. The index and glossary will thus be helpful tools for readers who desire additional information. For example, "electromagnetic spectrum" is not discussed in-depth until chapter 9, but readers needing earlier clarification will find that the index does point them to this later text reference, as well as to a helpful illustration. (The glossary also contains a definition.) The work includes numerous sidebars that expand upon topics mentioned in the chapters. These one-to-two-page discussions yield intriguing insights from a striking variety of perspectives: biographical, conceptual, organizational, and technical.

Because this book has the format of an introductory textbook rather than a ready-reference resource, it is not surprising that many interesting details—for example, the number

of currently active satellites—can be discovered only through careful reading of the text. A reader would not necessarily know to look under "space debris" in the index for information about currently active satellites.

References include print as well as Web sources. One notable omission is a history of astronomy. Such sources would serve as a valuable supplement, especially to the author's treatment of pre-twentieth-century developments.

Angelo's passion for his subject comes through in his emphasis on the impact of satellites on civilization. This theme is fully realized in the final chapters, which deal with remote sensing and the use of satellites in the multidisciplinary field of Earth system science. In these chapters Angelo expands on a point raised frequently throughout the work, that satellites can help humans work toward "intelligent stewardship of Earth" (213). With its emphasis on the global impact and importance of satellites, this book will appeal to readers interested in earth and environmental sciences as well as astronomy and space technology. Angelo's treatment of satellites in the context of contemporary life and environmental concerns will undoubtedly be "career-inspiring" (xiii) to students considering a future in science or engineering. This work fills a gap in the literature between more juvenile treatments of the subject and more advanced works. *Satellites* is recommended for science collections in high school, college, and public libraries.—*JoAnn Palmeri, Department of the History of Science, University of Oklahoma, Norman*

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**Science Fact and Science Fiction: An Encyclopedia.** By Brian Stableford. New York: Routledge, 2006. 729p. \$165 (ISBN 0-415-97460-7).

Science fiction fans are a special group. When they know about something, they really know about it. No amount of information is too much. That's why there is an insatiable demand for more reference works explaining more esoteric aspects of the genre, which makes it surprising that we have had to wait this long for a really good reference work on the science that makes it science fiction. *Science Fact and Science Fiction* treats the truly scientific underpinnings of the field; it eschews the space opera, space cowboys, generic star wars, and fantasy that often are lumped with science fiction in favor of acoustics, chemistry, engineering, paleontology, physics, zoology, even food science.

*Science Fact and Science Fiction* is an A–Z encyclopedia with alphabetical and thematic lists of entries and a good index. If you've ever been frustrated trying to find a topic in a purely alphabetical work ("okay, it's not under that heading, maybe if I try this one"), you will appreciate this book's three-pronged approach to finding information. Entries are by topic or person (galaxy, Galileo) and are substantive, including useful embedded bibliographies. The paper is not acid free and there is some show-through, but the type is legible and the margins are adequate. The bibliography at the end is comprehensive: included are works by Jung, Marshall McLuhan, Loren Eisley, and Stephen Hawking as well as traditional sci-fi writers. As always, one can quibble about one's