

“Language Use in Relationships,” providing a well-rounded combination of psychology, sociology, communication studies, and other behavioral sciences. The work is well indexed both alphabetically and as a topical reader’s guide. The topical reader’s guide is essential when attempting to classify and relate the varied entries into a more cohesive whole. Entries include cross-reference suggestions and give a brief bibliography for further resources on each entry. Broad topics such as “Friendship” are explored in many different entries describing aspects of the subject. The length of entries is an important aspect of the organization. Longer entries represent the most developed researched topics. Medium-size entries represent subjects that are important to core subjects. Shorter entries describe new theories or ideas about principle subjects (xlv).

There are several works that are similar, such as Jeffrey Turner’s *Encyclopedia of Relationships across the Lifespan* (Greenwood, 1996) and V. S. Ramachandran’s *Encyclopedia of Human Behavior* (Academic Press, 1994). Due to the size and scope of *Encyclopedia of Human Relationships*, making a comparison is difficult. When looking at the entry “Love” in all three resources, there are major differences in organization and depth of coverage. Turner’s one-volume work contains five pages on the topic of love. In general, the *Encyclopedia of Relationships across the Lifespan* is a good, concise work, and an excellent starting point for exploring a topic. Ramachandran’s four-volume *Encyclopedia of Human Behavior* discusses love in nine pages in a mainly conversational tone; the topic of intimacy also is included in the entry for love. A major strength of the *Encyclopedia of Human Relationships* is that it has thirteen pages with the aforementioned entry structure outlining major concepts in the subject of love. Also, intimacy is discussed separately in an additional nine pages of the *Encyclopedia of Human Relationships*. Reis and Sprecher’s work provides a broad, encompassing view of human relationships that are explored in other similar reference works.

The *Encyclopedia of Human Relationships* is a well-researched, unique multidisciplinary reference work. It is best suited for academic libraries with strong social sciences programs.—Alisa C. Gonzalez, *Reference Coordinator, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces*

Encyclopedia of Islam. By Juan E. Campo. *Encyclopedia of World Religions*. New York: Facts on File, 2009. 800p. Acid free \$85 (ISBN 978-0-8160-5454-1).

This encyclopedia is part of a six-volume set covering major religions of the world; however, this volume stands on its own, providing a fairly comprehensive exploration of Islam from ancient times to the present. In the past decade there have been dozens of general and specialized reference works published on Islam, including *The Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World* (Thomson/Gale, 2004). The *Encyclopedia of Islam* still manages to carve out a space in this crowded field by presenting approachable, timely, well-written entries that require little foreknowledge of the subject by the reader, but

it still provides an in-depth look at many facets of the religion. At nearly six hundred entries, the encyclopedia offers information on major personalities, locales, events, Islamic beliefs and customs, and more. Beyond the entries, there is a very brief chronology, subject bibliography, and introduction to Islamic history, as well as a select group of maps, illustrations, and photographs.

There is some unevenness in the book. Many of the entries seem to have been chosen in deference to recent media coverage as opposed to significance to the overall history of Islam. For instance, there is an entry on Chechnya, but not for the Russian Federation as a whole, which has exponentially more Muslims in its various regions. Furthermore, it is peculiar that Indonesia, the most populous Muslim country in the world, and other significant Muslim countries, have entries less than half the size of that for the United States, which has an important but modest Muslim minority population. The work would have been furthered if each Muslim country and other countries with significant Muslim minorities were profiled separately. Instead, many countries are lumped into regional clusters, such as “Gulf States” or “West Africa,” where they are often given paltry coverage and treated as homogenous regional cultures with no appreciation for the postcolonial history and development of Islam in each country. Oddly, Australia and New Zealand and their small Muslim minority populations have separate entries. This sort of anomaly is common in the encyclopedia.

Despite its shortcomings, the encyclopedia will be useful to students with limited knowledge of Islam and needing ready reference access to information on the religion and its history. The inclusion of oft-neglected religious terms as well as use of transliterated Arabic and other languages with English translations and cross-references is refreshing and brings a level of sophistication often absent in similar introductory works. This encyclopedia is recommended for college libraries.—Brent D. Singleton, *Reference Librarian, California State University, San Bernardino*

Encyclopedia of Jewish-American Literature. By Gloria L. Cronin and Alan L. Berger. *Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Literature*. New York: Facts on File, 2009. 416p. Alkaline \$75 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6085-6).

This reference book focuses on biographies of more than one hundred Jewish-American authors and descriptions of their significant literary works. All entries are arranged alphabetically with a bibliography at the end. The entries describing literary works emphasize major themes in the framework and history of Judaism. The content focus is on fiction, poetry, and drama but also includes memoirs, poetry, and short stories. It covers the last forty years to follow-up on *Jewish American Literature: A Norton Anthology*, which the authors believe best reflects the very early beginnings of Jewish-American literature and the pre-1970s movement (viii).

Facts on File has a very attractive formula for this type of specialized subject reference book. They are consistently