

"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 Jeffery 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

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credible and comprehensive in scope. However, these books face major competition from the Internet and other electronic resources. For long-term survival, these books will need to be very easily browsed by the average user. For example, the front matter section “Bibliography of Secondary Sources” is a comprehensive listing of the resources used to research the entries in the entire book. This list includes websites with long addresses and electronic newspaper articles, which may be difficult to find on the Internet after a period of time. More important, this bibliographic list should have been categorized by literary author, not just by the author of the resource. To use a specific example, all of the secondary sources used for research on the entry for Saul Bellow should be listed together for easier browsing.

The front matter section “Survey of Jewish-American Literature” gives a lengthy perspective, broken down into specific time periods (e.g., “1492–1880: Jews and American Settlement”) of Jewish history and the gradual development of the literature. Users also would benefit from a separate list of authors broken down into these time periods.

The primary source bibliography in the back of the book is stronger. It gives a list of each author alphabetically with a list of their major works with the date in parentheses after the title. This should probably be labeled more explicitly for high school students who may not always relate the term “primary source” to literature.

The content of the author biographies interweave the author’s literary works with significant life events. This is the real strength of the book. While a search of *Literature Resource Center* (Gale) for Saul Bellow yielded additional lists of information about Bellow’s literary career not found here, this book places the context firmly in the Jewish-American experience and culture. Most suited to high school students, school librarians will need to actively market this book to students who would likely seek this type of information from the Internet or other electronic resources.—*Terry Darr, Library Director, Loyola Blakefield, Towson, Maryland*

Encyclopedia of Play in Today’s Society. Ed. by Rodney P. Carlisle. Los Angeles: Sage, c. 2009. 2 vols. \$325 (ISBN: 978-1-4129-6670-2). Ebook ed. \$405 (eISBN 978-1-4129-7193-5) (not reviewed).

All work and no play can make a dull reference book. *Encyclopedia of Play in Today’s Society* is anything but dull. Sage has created a unique and comprehensive work that addresses all aspects of play. *Encyclopedia of Play in Today’s Society* examines childhood and adult play. Research is provided for a history of play throughout the ages and in a wide array of world cultures.

The 450 articles that compose *Encyclopedia of Play in Today’s Society* are diverse, ranging from a description of the Sonic the Hedgehog video game series, to the importance of recess and how it differs from a physical education, to Piaget’s theory of fantasy play, to play in Belarus. Each entry provides *see also* references to other articles and a brief bibliography for further reference. Card games, board games, playground

games, and sporting games, such as bowling and curling, are covered. Rules for Slapjack, perhaps long forgotten from childhood memories, and information on its Chinese variation Snap is provided. How gender influences play is delineated in the articles “Boys’ Play” and “Girls’ Play.” “Psychology of Play” and “Sociology of Play” further expand on the role of play in individual and social life experiences.

The concept of play is paramount to the creators of this resource. A bonus feature is a puzzle that invites readers to engage in playing by searching for a key quote about play’s importance by locating clues hidden among various entries.

An extensive glossary, a resource guide, appendixes, and an index are provided. While other resources may incorporate information on play-related topics, no other guide covers play so extensively, making it difficult to generate comparisons to other resources and thus, making *Encyclopedia of Play in Today’s Society* an imperative purchase for academic libraries. It also is recommended for larger public libraries as an addition to parent/teacher collections or general reference collections. This resource will be of particular interest to LIS students seeking to become children’s services librarians.—*Lisa Powell Williams, Adult Services Coordinator, Moline (Ill.) Public Library*

Encyclopedia of Race and Crime. Ed. by Helen T. Greene and Shaun L. Gabbidon. Los Angeles: Sage, 2009. 2 vols. Acid free. \$350.00/set (ISBN: 978-1-4129-5085-5).

Regardless of how one views the demographic makeup of the United States, be it “melting pot” or “salad bowl” or some other metaphor, there is no getting around the fact that the heterogeneous nature of the populace has been a source of friction since the inception of the republic. One flashpoint in particular ignites repeatedly down through the centuries, and it is to be found at the intersection of race and crime, the very subject of this two-volume set, *Encyclopedia of Race and Crime*. Charges of police profiling, the ongoing saga of O. J. Simpson, and seemingly daily reports of ethnic gang warfare only serve to underscore the significance of this topic. The antecedent and contemporary issues involved, the scattered nature of information in this regard, and an alternative to what is presented to the public by the mass media are posited in the introduction as underlying the need for a work of this type (xxviii). This reviewer concurs that the present work fills a void and generally does it in a commendable way.

Editors Greene and Gabbidon are both well versed in their subject matter. The former holds a doctorate in criminology from the University of Maryland and is currently professor and interim chair of the Administration of Justice Department in the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. The latter is likewise in possession of a doctorate in criminology, earned from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and at present serves as professor of criminal justice in the School of Public Affairs at Penn State Harrisburg. Both have written widely in their chosen field, with a particular emphasis on the race–crime connection.