

SOURCES

Elswit follows the structure of her first book, *The Jewish Story Finder: A Guide to 363 Tales, Listing Subjects and Sources* (McFarland, 2005). Each numbered entry begins with the title of the tale as it is given in the recommended source, along with the author and other bibliographic information needed to find the source. Following this is the country or cultural group of the tale's origin. Story summaries are short but functional, containing character names, major themes, and enough plot description to pique the reader's interest—for example: "Sho's nasty mistress sets off to acquire her own fortune on Cat Mountain, with grisly results" (116). "Connections" cross-reference the story to other topics in the subject index. Finally, most entries have a section titled "How Else This Story is Told," which refers to other recommended versions of the same tale. Stories are organized into chapters by broad themes, such as "Animal Fables," "The Way Things Are," and "Devotion."

Appendixes list the stories by country of origin and provide a very short glossary of terms that may not be evident through the context of the stories. Online resources and bilingual editions are great additions to the bibliography; I noticed that some of the older titles listed here may be difficult to track down. Finally, the story title index and subject index provide plentiful access points to the stories.

Many libraries already own reference works on folktales and fairy tales with entries for well-known themes or characters alongside those for authors, illustrators, cultures, and literary theories. A related work is *The Greenwood Library of World Folktales* (Greenwood, 2008), with its section on East Asia containing scholarly translations of authoritative versions and introductory contextual notes on each tale. However, Elswit's work serves a significantly different purpose from existing sources; her content is solely the stories themselves, and her focus is on finding the right story to connect with a group. This book will be valuable for librarians and educators who plan storytimes or lessons around themes; it is recommended for public and school libraries.—Amy R. Hofer, *Research Instruction Librarian, Golden Gate University, San Francisco*

The Encyclopedia of Cosmetic and Plastic Surgery. By Carol A. Rinzler. Facts On File Library of Health and Living. New York: Facts On File, 2009. 288p. Alkaline \$75 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6285-0).

Changing one's appearance through surgical or nonsurgical procedures has become increasingly popular and merits an authoritative reference source. *The Encyclopedia of Cosmetic and Plastic Surgery* is part of the Facts on File Library of Health and Living series, a collection of resources covering various health and social issues. This addition to the series is designed to provide lay readers with an overview of health conditions and procedures related to cosmetic and plastic surgery, including treatment options and risks involved.

Entries are arranged alphabetically and cover health conditions, procedures, and other terms associated with cosmetic and plastic surgery. Each entry is listed by its medical term;

numerous *see* references direct the reader from a lay term to the correct entry. Each entry for a health condition includes the sections "Symptoms and Diagnostic Path," "Treatment Options and Outlook," and "Risk Factors and Preventive Measures." Each entry for a cosmetic or surgical procedure includes the sections "Procedures," "Risks and Complications," and "Outlook and Lifestyle Modifications." Entries are concise and well written, but at an advanced reading level. Drawings and illustrations would be a welcome addition to enhance the reader's understanding.

A number of features facilitate the usability of this title. An appendix guides readers to authoritative websites for locating medical information, physician ratings, and healthcare facility ratings. A nineteen-page glossary provides definitions of unfamiliar terms and a thirteen-page index assists readers in locating topics of interest. References are not included at the end of entries; instead, a fifteen-page bibliography is found at the end of the book, with references arranged by type of resource. Providing references after entries would greatly enhance this title's usefulness as a starting point to understanding medical conditions and treatment options.

Overall, this book competently provides overviews of health conditions and procedures related to cosmetic and plastic surgery. However, laypersons may find that the advanced reading level, alphabetical organization of entries, and arrangement of references hinders their comprehension of cosmetic and plastic surgery issues. The same material also has been published in Rinzler's *The A to Z of Cosmetic and Plastic Surgery* (Checkmark Books, 2009) at a more budget-friendly price. A better choice for consumer health collections may be Bellenir's *Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery Sourcebook* (Omnigraphics, 2007), which covers similar material in a question-and-answer format. Information is arranged in sections and chapters that gather related information together and provide a more complete picture at a more comprehensible reading level.—Annette M. Healy, *Librarian, Wayne State University, Detroit*

Encyclopedia of Human Relationships. Ed. by Harry T. Reis and Susan Sprecher. Los Angeles: Sage, 2009. 3 vols. Acid free \$425 (ISBN 978-1-4129-5846-2).

From the initial human bond between mother and child, relationships with others are a defining aspect of people's lives. A person's life is intertwined with others', creating meaningful personal interactions that create society. Encompassing behavioral and social disciplines, the *Encyclopedia of Human Relationships*, edited by Harry T. Reis (University of Rochester) and Susan Sprecher (Illinois State University), is a three-volume reference work dealing with all aspects of human interactions and bonds.

The encyclopedia has hundreds of varied entries on interpersonal and societal relationships. Contributors include well-regarded professors as well as experts in entry subjects. Some of these diverse topics include "Lust," "Commercial Channels for Mate Seeking," "Interdependency Theory," and

“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