

*The SAGE Encyclopedia of Stem Cell Research*. 2nd ed. Edited by Eric E. Bouhassira and Krishna S. Vyas. Los Angeles: SAGE Reference, 2015. 3 vols. Alkaline paper \$525 (ISBN 978-1-4833-4768-4)

The study of stem cell research is continually expanding. Bouhassira, an expert in the field of stem cell research and the editor of *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Stem Cell Research*, 2nd ed., states: “given the increasing size and liveliness of the stem cell biology community and given the huge impact this novel scientific knowledge and technologies will have on society, providing a fully comprehensive view was not possible” (xxxix). With these limitations in mind, Bouhassira’s text focuses on topics that would be of interest to the general public. The encyclopedia examines in great detail topics concerning embryonic (pluripotent), induced pluripotent (iPS), and adult stem cells. More than 500 articles cover a variety of topics concerning stem cell research, ranging from clinical trials and institutions that support stem cell research (such as “Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research,” “Japan Human Cell Society,” and “Clinical Trials, U.S.: Eye Conditions”) to the ethics and applications of stem cell research (such as “Do No Harm: The Coalition of Americans for Research Ethics,” “Radiation Injury Treatment,” and “Sweat Gland: Existing or Potential Regenerative Medicine Strategies”).

Articles vary in length, from several paragraphs to a few pages and “see also” references, further readings, images, tables, and figures are provided when available. The text is easy to navigate and use. Articles are listed alphabetically and by topic. Additional features such as a glossary, index, and extensive resource guide all aid in the readers’ understanding of stem cell research. Special features include a chronology (a timeline of the history of stem cell research) in addition to three appendices which cover legislation pertaining to stem cell research.

Bouhassira’s encyclopedia does meet its objective of covering a wide range of topics on stem cell research that would be of interest to the general public; however, the detail of the articles, complexity of the writing, and various graphic images (for example, Rat Dissection in “Rat Models to Study Stem Cells”) make it inappropriate for the general consumer. This encyclopedia would be of greater value to researchers, clinicians, medical students, and upper level graduate students. Encyclopedias such as Svendsen and Ebert’s *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Stem Cell Research, 1st Edition* (2008) is written at a level more appropriate for the general consumer, though it is not as comprehensive as Bouhassira’s text. Another comparable work is Alexander L. Greene’s *Encyclopedia of Stem Cell Research* (Nova Science 2008). Greene’s text is technical and covers a range of topics related to stem cell research but focuses on the application of stem cell therapy and is not as comprehensive as Bouhassira’s encyclopedia. *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Stem Cell Research*, 2nd ed. text is an excellent resource and is strongly recommended for medical libraries and universities that support research or curriculum in

cellular biology and stem cell research.—*Maria C. Melssen, Medical Librarian, Port Clinton, Ohio*

*Water Rights and the Environment in the United States: A Documentary and Reference Guide*. By John R. Burch Jr. Documentary Reference Guides. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 442 p. Acid-free \$100 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3802-6). Ebook available (978-1-4408-3803-3) call for pricing.

In *Water Rights and the Environment in the United States: A Documentary and Reference Guide* Burch presents a collection of documents highlighting major points in the development of water politics and policy in the United States related to environmental issues. The interrelation of the rulings, legislation, treaties, and agreements, including how they built upon, corrected, or contradicted each other, informs the discussions.

Each document is introduced with a quote, the title, the date and location, and a comment regarding the significance. Some documents are full text, some excerpted. All are followed by analysis and further reading. Following a reader’s guide providing broad topical categorization of the documents, and an introduction, the book is arranged into six parts: “Doctrines and Rights,” “Waters of the West,” “Border Regions,” “Water Management and Flood Control,” “Environmental Issues,” and “New Threats to Water Supply and Safety.” These are followed by a chronology, resources, and an index.

Rather than comprehensiveness, Burch devotes his effort to careful selection, concise presentation, analysis, and accessibility. The detailed table of contents, the reader’s guide, and the chronology enhance accessibility and contextualization. The index, a noteworthy asset, is thorough and provides access at a variety of levels of topics. It is essential for locating information based on common names, such as the Boldt Decision, or using the second named party in a dispute, such as Left-Hand Ditch Company. The analyses suggest motivations and note significant contemporaneous conditions. Also discussed are outcomes due to the construction of the document or the implementation, continuing flaws, and other ideas or information that flesh out the documents and the associated issues.

There is certainly benefit to works that are more comprehensive and descriptive, leaving the reader to pursue the documents. John W. Johnson’s *United States Water Law: An Introduction* (CRC Press 2009) and A. Dan Tarlock’s *Law of Water Rights and Resources* (Thomson Reuters 2015) are examples. Tarlock cites an abundance of documents, and is updated frequently, but is written for lawyers and lacks a broader environmental interest. Johnson, similarly, does not emphasize environmental aspects, but is useful for concise definitions of concepts and citations to follow. Philippe Sande’s *Documents in International Environmental Law* (Cambridge University Press 2004) could serve a similar purpose to Burch, on an international scale, but would benefit from updating.

*Water Resource Management: A Casebook in Law and Public Policy*, 7th ed., by A. Dan Tarlock, James N. Corbridge, David H. Getches, Reed D. Benson, and Sarah Bates (West Academic 2014), is more than twice as long and much more dense, thorough, and comprehensive than Burch's work, although about twice as expensive as well. The non-intuitive indexing made it somewhat difficult to locate the three-quarter page on fracking, for example, although it provided valuable information and plentiful citations. Tarlock's work does not, and is not intended to, provide the texts or significant segments of the documents. The lack of a specifically environmental focus may account for the apparent lack of reference to the Boldt decision (*United States v. Washington State*, 1974), for example.

Burch has produced a work with an engaging narrative style, which is easily used and engenders understanding of how the current state arose and consideration of future directions. Reading how the court described the snowballing errors culminating in the Exxon Valdez disaster, for example, enlivens the conceptual information with concrete, real-life impact. However, for graduate level or above, and for legal education programs, the types of information, specificity, and breadth of *Water Resource Management* would be a preferable choice for most.—*Lisa Euster, Reference Librarian, Seattle*

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***The World of Ancient Rome: A Daily Life Encyclopedia.*** By James W. Ermatinger. Daily Life Encyclopedias. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-4408-2907-9). Ebook available (978-1-4408-2908-6) available, call for pricing.

Greenwood's latest entry in their Daily Life Encyclopedia series is James Ermatinger's *The World of Ancient Rome*. Ermatinger, a late Roman specialist and Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois Springfield, is the sole author of this two-volume resource, which covers ten main areas of daily life, including art, fashion, family and gender, recreation and social customs, and food and drink, as well as the usual politics and warfare. Sections are divided into alphabetical entries, and there are cross-references and an index to help locate topics. Entries have individual bibliographies and there is a comprehensive list of resources at the end of volume 2. A nice addition are translations into English of primary sources giving a contemporary view of Roman life. There are occasional black and white illustrations to enliven the text.

While many of the previous volumes in the Daily Life series have been edited, with contributions from numerous authors and experts, later volumes, such as this one, have been authored by one expert in the particular field being discussed. While Ermatinger does an excellent job of illustrating Roman life in the Republican period (509–31 BCE) with occasional forays into the Monarchy and Early Empire periods, the writing is a bit dry and would have been improved by more variety in expression and viewpoint. There are also a number of excellent resources on this topic, such

as Florence Dupont's classic *Daily Life in Ancient Rome* (Blackwell 1994) and David Matz' lively *Daily Life of the Ancient Romans* (Hackett 2008) all at a much lower cost, so this may not be the best choice for libraries on a budget. However, it is a very good overview of life in the Roman Republic and would be useful for secondary and undergraduate students researching the topic or for general interest.—*Amanda K. Sprochi, Health Sciences Cataloger, J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri*

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***The World of the Civil War: A Daily Life Encyclopedia.*** Ed. by Lisa Tendrich Frank. Daily Life Encyclopedias. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 2 vols. Acid-free \$198 (ISBN 978-1-4408-2978-9). Ebook available (978-1-4408-2979-6) call for pricing.

This work is part of Greenwood's Daily Life Encyclopedias series which addresses the branch of historical scholarship that emphasizes the roles and experiences of ordinary people rather than focusing exclusively on political/military leaders and similar prominent historical figures. Its 230-plus entries are divided into ten categories: "Arts"; "Clothing, Fashion, and Appearance"; "Economy and Work"; "Family Life and Gender Roles"; "Food and Drink"; "Housing and Community"; "Politics and Warfare"; "Recreation and Social Customs"; "Religion and Belief"; and "Science and Technology." Copies of fifteen primary documents follow the main section. Each section begins with a brief introduction that sets the context, followed by alphabetical entries for each sub-topic. Entries average 2–3 pages. Black and white illustrations are interspersed throughout the text. A table of contents conveniently lists all entries alphabetically under each broad category. Other features include a chronology, "see also" references to related articles, further reading lists for each entry, a selected bibliography, and detailed subject index.

Aimed at high school and college students as well as the general public, this encyclopedia contains an eclectic array of information on the many ways in which the Civil War impinged on the lives of average people from all walks of life. It "provide[s] the context and background for the military narratives that most commonly get retold as the history of the Civil War" (xv). As such, it likely fills a gap in the reference literature. While it presents a great deal of interesting material, there is no clear statement of criteria for inclusion beyond the brief introductory sections preceding each subject category and the work as a whole. This can lead to somewhat arbitrary choices of content. For example, the entry for railroads (under the "Science and Technology" category) appropriately treats the general role of railroads in both the Union and the Confederacy overall. It also includes a focus on Virginia, whose railroad systems played a major part in the war effort. However, the only other state given prominent mention is Louisiana—along with two relatively obscure railroad companies operating in that state. The reasons for this choice are unclear. Nonetheless, this work contains much useful material. The layout of the table of