Sources
Reference Books
Tammy J. Eschedor Voelker, Editor

The 101 Most Unusual Diseases and Disorders
The 21st-Century Voter: Who Votes, How They Vote, and Why They Vote
Asian American Culture: From Anime to Tiger Moms
At the Table: Food and Family around the World
Campaigning for President in America, 1788–2016
Encyclopedia of Nordic Crime Fiction: Works and Authors of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden
Global Happiness: A Guide to the Most Contented (and Discontented) Places Around the Globe
Gun Politics in America: Historical and Modern Documents in Context
ISIS: An Introduction and Guide to the Islamic State
Miracles: An Encyclopedia of People, Places, and Supernatural Events from Antiquity to the Present
The Persian Empire: A Historical Encyclopedia
Resisting the Holocaust: Upstanders, Partisans, and Survivors
The Sage Encyclopedia of Quality and the Service Economy
The 21st-Century Voter: Afghanistan War, Iraq War, and the War on Terror


There is developing public interest in strange and rare medical conditions, as evidenced by the popularity of television programs such as Discovery Life’s Mystery Diagnosis and Animal Planet’s Monsters Inside Me. Of reference works about rare conditions, many focus on specialized topics or are intended for health practitioners. Here, the author, Evelyn B. Kelly, writes in her introduction: “this book is intended for a lay audience who does not necessarily want or need to know all of the medical minutiae related to a particular condition” (xiv). Consequently, The 101 Most Unusual Diseases and Disorders may be an appropriate addition for some non-medical libraries.

The work is divided into five broad sections of medical conditions. The sections include “Genetic Disorders,” “Mental Health Disorders,” “Environmental Diseases and Disorders,” “Infectious Diseases,” and “Other or Unexplained Origin.” These begin with some explanatory text intended to provide a very brief overview and define some relevant terminology. The work includes a total of 101 entries, alphabetized under each section. Each entry begins with a bulleted list drawing attention to facts such as pathology, signs and symptoms, and alternative names. Each condition then includes a longer description and headings for symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and alternative names. Each section. Each entry begins with a bulleted list drawing attention to facts such as pathology, signs and symptoms, and alternative names. Each condition then includes a longer description and headings for symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and alternative names. Each section.

A few features in this work make it particularly useful for readers to browse and develop interest in a topic or condition. The very concise bulleted list that starts each entry provides a snapshot that is very easy to skim. Many entries also provide some boxed text that describe some tangential point of interest such as famous case studies, interviews or health advice. The “Helpful Resources” section simply reproduces the “Further Information” headings at the end of each entry. The single, alphabetized index is serviceable.

Overall, this work accomplishes what the author intended. It is not a comprehensive medical reference work. The strongest features of the book are the ease with which the reader can skim an entry and locate the most important, unusual or interesting facts. It provides a concise introduction to many unusual medical conditions and is most useful as a discovery tool.—Ryan McLaughlin, Adjunct Reference Librarian, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

RUSQ considers for review reference books and professional materials of interest to reference and user services librarians. Serials and subscription titles normally are not reviewed unless a major change in purpose, scope, format, or audience has occurred. Reviews usually are three hundred to five hundred words in length. Views expressed are those of the reviewers and do not necessarily represent those of ALA. Please refer to standard directories for publishers’ addresses.

Correspondence concerning these reviews should be addressed to “Reference Sources” editor, Anita Slack, Reference & Instruction Librarian, Ashland University, 509 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805; email: aslack3@ashland.edu.


The title of this two volume set suggests that the focus is on voters: their demographics, voting preferences, and motivations. However, the editors state “the aim . . . is to