from individual to individual, it covers the most significant sources of stress, for example, financial, caregiving stress, sexuality concerns, and work issues, just to name a few. Part 3 then delves into responses to stress. It focuses both on the effective and ineffective methods individuals use to cope with stress. Also discussed are trends for current and future ways to manage stress. One chapter in this part discusses certain psychological stress disorders and with some research on the disorders. As mentioned earlier, part 4 is what really makes this resource unique. It features twenty personal essays by “real individuals describing their stress, their response to stress, and how they’ve learned to cope with stress in their lives” (xiii).

I compared Stress in the Modern World: Understanding Science and Society to two other reference sources. Encyclopedia of Stress (Elsevier/Academic, 2007) and Ada P. Kahn’s The Encyclopedia of Stress and Stress Related Diseases (Facts on File, 2006). The former is a three-volume set of more than five hundred articles. This set seems to be written from more of a medical perspective. The latter is a single-volume resource that is also an alphabetic listing. This source also contains entries around contemporary issues that contribute to stress. I would recommend Stress in the Modern World: Understanding Science and Society over the other two sources for both undergraduate academic libraries and public libraries. This source details how stress affects both physical and mental health in a concise, easy to understand way. —Mina Chercourt, Head of Cataloging and Metadata, Grasselli Library and Breen Learning Center, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio


The Complete Book of 2000s Broadway Musicals is arranged by year and lists each Broadway musical chronologically. The introduction states that the purpose of the work is to “provide a convenient reference source that gives both technical information (such as cast and song lists) and commentary (including obscure details that personalize both familiar and forgotten musicals)” (xi). As in Dietz’s other volumes in this series, the reader comes for the technical information, but stays for the commentary.

Each of the 213 musicals and revues that opened between January 1, 2000, and December 31, 2009, is given a full workup: cast information, a list of musical numbers, a general sense of how the work was received, and a roundup of reviews, all sprinkled with trivia. At its best, The Complete Book of 2000s Broadway Musicals puts in one place the facts about a decade’s worth of musical theatre. Details about other shows the cast has been in and the history of revivals’ previous runs truly adds to the disconnected experience of merely reading about the multisensory experience that is a Broadway musical. The commentary is mostly helpful but sometimes crosses into mean-spirited territory, occasionally about the audience.

I did love some of the insults Dietz throws at unsuccessful shows, such as “lacked the Pow Factor” (31) and “the characters had Issues, Problems, and Behavior Patterns from Trendy Playwriting 101” (360). There is also much amusement to be had in reading about true bombs (like Seussical: The Musical). However, I did not love it when he turned those insults toward the audience, especially those who enjoy a flashy spectacle. Dietz’s disdain for big, flashy productions and those who love them is clear, and perhaps is misplaced in a reference book. Perhaps the scope of the volume should have been altered so that only “real” Broadway musicals were included, not garish, crude, or those intended for the “all-important teenage-girl audience” (295), which Dietz references several times in a manner I can’t help but interpret as dismissive.

The volume achieves its goal: each Broadway musical is described in detail, and there is an impressive (perhaps unnecessary) variety of appendices so that the reader may quickly identify shows by other routes besides date or title. Recommended for academic or specialized libraries focusing on the arts.—Tracy Carr, Library Services Director, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Mississippi