

SOURCES

(2014)—these are not as explicit about selecting medical discoveries because of their clinical innovation and broad use.—*Bernadette A. Lear, Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, Penn State Harrisburg Library, Middletown, Pennsylvania*

Celebrating Life Customs around the World: From Baby Showers to Funerals. By Victoria Williams. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 3 vols. Acid-free \$294 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3658-9). E-book available (978-1-4408-3659-6), call for pricing.

Victoria Williams is a freelance writer and editor with a PhD focused on European fairy tales and folklore. She has edited a variety of ABC-CLIO reference works on folklore-related topics, ranging from sports and games to human sacrifice. *Celebrating Life Customs around the World: From Baby Showers to Funerals* is the most recent of Williams' works. The three-volume set consists of more than three hundred entries on rituals and customs related to specific life stages. The entries in this set are organized first by life stage, then alphabetically. The first volume focuses on birth and childhood, the second on adolescence and early adulthood, and the third on aging and death. Each entry ends with internal cross-references and further reading and includes inset color photographs, selected bibliography, and comprehensive index.

The introduction of the set states that it is primarily aimed at researchers but is jargon-free to be accessible to the general reader. However, it is questionable as an authoritative source for use by upper division undergraduates and beyond as not all of the entries use academically accurate and uncontested sources.

Where Williams excels is that the entries in this set are incredibly readable for an academic work. Because of its readability, it is a good primer or introduction to various topics for further study. The broad geographic areas covered in this work are impressive. Furthermore, Williams tackles subjects that might be uncomfortable for Western readers, such as endocannibalism, with tact and cultural relativism.

Celebrating Life Customs around the World: From Baby Showers to Funerals is a good introduction to various topics for community college or lower division undergraduates. This set would be a useful addition to a reference collection that is lacking introductory materials on anthropology, human geography, or folklore.—*Chloe E. Bragg, Technical Services Librarian, Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio*

D-Day: The Essential Reference Guide. Edited by Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 280 p. Acid-free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4974-9). E-book available (978-1-4408-4975-6), call for pricing.

The Normandy Landings, commonly referred to as D-Day, was a pivotal moment in the course of the Second World War. This successful invasion of the northwestern

beaches of France marked the beginning of the Allied liberation of the western front, and would ultimately lead to the defeat of Nazi Germany. *D-Day: The Essential Reference Guide* successfully provides quality reference information on this major historical event.

This single-volume, 280-page work is home to a wealth of reference information on seemingly every relevant aspect of D-Day. Organized alphabetically, entries run between one and five pages in length. Fortunately for students and history buffs alike, each entry features a bibliography of further readings, enabling and encouraging users to continue their study and research. Editor Spencer C. Tucker has crafted an exceptional collection of well-written, illuminating entries covering such topics as Allied Warships, the French Resistance, Charles de Gaulle, and Operation Cobra.

Additionally, this reference work features numerous maps and charts of the invasion, a collection of nine facsimile primary source documents consisting of letters and speeches from the likes of President Franklin Roosevelt and General Dwight D. Eisenhower, an exceptionally detailed chronology of events that outlines (in some instances to the minute) the invasion, and a comprehensive bibliography of all sources cited in the creation of this volume. Despite the single-volume format, this encyclopedia contains all of the features one would expect from an expansive, multi-volume set.

One important consideration to take into account, and the only potential weakness of this work, is the scope of this encyclopedia. While a great many libraries would benefit from a general reference work on World War II in its entirety, adding a reference work singularly focused on one (admittedly very important) event within World War II could potentially limit the appeal for libraries and readers. High school and undergraduate libraries are most likely to have students studying World War II in moderate to significant detail and would probably benefit the most by having access to this reference work.

The many strengths of this encyclopedia, such as its diminutive size, approachable writing style, ease of use, and the breadth of its coverage on all aspects of D-Day, far outweigh its only notable weakness being its singular focus on D-Day itself. This encyclopedia is highly recommended for high school and undergraduate libraries.—*Matthew Ladicina, Reference Program Coordinator, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz*

Encyclopedia of African American Business: Updated and Revised Edition, 2nd ed. Edited by Jessie Carney Smith. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2017. 2 vols. Acid-free \$198 (ISBN 978-1-4408-5027-1). E-book available (978-1-4408-5028-8), call for pricing.

The African American contribution to business and economic institutions in America is significant and spans “the period from 18th-century America to the present” (xlv). This encyclopedia is unique in being a reference work dedicated