Sources

Reference Books

Anita J. Slack, Editor

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Food, Feasts, and Faith: An Encyclopedia of Food Culture in World Religions ...................................................... 264
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We Eat What? A Cultural Encyclopedia of Unusual Foods in the United States ...................................................... 270
Winning the War on Poverty: Applying the Lessons of History to the Present ........................................................ 271


This two-volume set from Greenwood explores eating disorders and their causes, treatment, and prevention. The editor, Justine Reel, is a researcher and licensed counselor specializing in disordered eating, obesity prevention, and sports psychology, and she has assembled a knowledgeable team of psychologists, nutritionists, eating disorder specialists, and researchers as contributors to this encyclopedia. Articles in the volume are listed alphabetically and include topics on medical and psychological disorders, sports medicine and exercise, popular culture, therapies, and comorbidities common to eating disorder patients. Each entry begins with an overview, a brief history if warranted, and a discussion of how the topic relates to or affects eating disorders. A bibliography accompanies each signed article, and cross references are included for further investigation. In addition, interviews with people suffering with or affected by eating disorders are included in appropriate sections, and a comprehensive index at the end of volume 2 aids in locating individual topics. Two helpful sections are included at the end of volume two: “Controversies and Debates” gives opposing viewpoints on issues within the eating disorder research community, and “Case Illustrations” gives ten examples of patients with potential eating disorder symptoms and the possible diagnoses and treatments that are available for their conditions.

Although differently titled, Eating Disorders: Understanding Causes, Controversies and Treatment seems to be an overhaul and update of Reel’s earlier volume Eating Disorders: An Encyclopedia of Causes, Treatment, and Prevention (ABC-Cho, 2013). An update was sorely needed, however, as some of the eating disorders identified in Reel’s earlier edition have been recategorized or deprecated in the new DSM-V (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, American Psychiatric Association, 2013). There currently are not many good reference resources on eating disorders for a general audience. Most books fall either into the professional medical area and are written for specialists or else are more in the self-help genre. Omnigraphics is releasing a new edition of their one-volume Eating Disorders Sourcebook this year, which may be a viable alternative, but Eating Disorders: Understanding Causes, Controversies and Treatment is an excellent resource on the topic for general readers, high school age and above.—Amanda K. Sprochi, Health Sciences Cataloger, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri


Part reference book, part readers’ advisory, and completely entertaining to browse, the Encyclopedia of Romance Fiction is easy to read and can be used for a variety of purposes. The editors carefully select titles for inclusion and provide in-depth reviews that start with an overview of the book’s content and author and then continue with an in-depth analysis of the book’s value and its strengths and weaknesses. Brief biographies of the authors are included in the reviews. The volume is well organized and useful for a variety of purposes. It is suitable for high school and college libraries and will be helpful for reference librarians.

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 J. Slack, Liaison and Instruction Librarian, Capital University 1 College and Main Columbus, OH 43209 email: aslack8@capital.edu.