

## SOURCES

*Fiction's* selective set of entries illustrates the breadth of the romance genre while acknowledging its reach, from early literature to today's publishing industry. The market share of popular romance indicates the public's enduring interest and demonstrates a need for supplementary resources for general readers or those beginning research in romance-related topics. Academic study of this popular reading material is increasing, with special issues and at least one peer-reviewed journal devoted to the topic and recognition within disciplines including literature, women's and gender studies, and popular culture.

Ramsdell, an established authority on romance fiction, gathered researched contributions from scholars, publishers, and librarians to show the range of interest in romance fiction. Rather than attempting a comprehensive look at the genre or focusing primarily on individual authors or texts, the majority of the content focuses on basics such as characteristics, subgenres, common plots, and issues associated with romance fiction. The work's scope includes the influence of Gothic novelists and looks forward to modern developments such as the increased access to erotica brought about by technology. References to additional resources accompany each entry.

Users will enjoy either browsing or going directly to the index to identify specific entries. The "List of Entries" and "Guide to Related Topics" function as a dual table of contents, appealing to users with different reasons for using the title. It is worth noting that the index does not consistently reference every author or title mentioned within every entry. Authors referenced within the entry for "Fantasy Romance," for example, are found in the index, while entire series developed by popular contemporary authors who did not merit individual entries are only identified within the entry for "Linked Books."

Those seeking to build romance collections, provide more readers' advisory, or focus on individual authors and texts would be better served by other titles, including Ramsdell's *Romance Fiction: A Guide to the Genre* (Libraries Unlimited, 2012) or the Brackett's *Classic Love & Romance Literature* (ABC-CLIO, 1999). This encyclopedia bridges the popular and the emerging academic interest in this popular fiction genre.

Recommended for libraries with romance collections, general interest in the subject, and supporting programs in women's studies or popular culture.—Amy F. Fyn, *Coordinator of Library Instruction, Kimbel Library, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, South Carolina*

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***Food, Feasts, and Faith: An Encyclopedia of Food Culture in World Religions.*** By Paul Fieldhouse. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 2 vols. Acid-free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-61069-411-7). E-book Available (1-61069-412-4), call for pricing.

The alliterative *Food, Feasts, and Faith: An Encyclopedia of Food Culture in World Religions* brings together information

about the uses of food and drink within the faith practices of well-known religions with global adherents such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism as well as lesser-known faith communities and sects such as Candomblé, Rastafari, Santeria, and the indigenous peoples of Africa, Australia, and America. Articles, which follow a standard A to Z arrangement, cover customs (fish on Friday), food stuffs (rice), drink (wine), people (Guru Nanak), festivals (Qingming), practices (fasting), rituals (marriage ceremonies), religious groups (Seventh-Day Adventists), and sacred texts (Laws of Manu) to name but a few of the 226 entries and 220 or so related topics. Each article includes see also references and lists sources for further reading. Twenty-seven primary source documents such as "The Taittiriya Upanishad on Food" (2:577) supplement the main work. Each is briefly introduced for context, given see also references to related articles, and provided with a citation to the source from which the excerpted text is taken.

Religious calendars, black and white photographs, and sidebars illustrate many of the entries. The former are based on or converted to the 2017 Gregorian calendar necessitating updating in subsequent years.

*Food, Feasts, and Faith* concludes with a listing of mostly recent books and websites (without the date accessed), the credentials of the encyclopedia's sole author, and an impressively comprehensive index. Largely of interest to a North American audience, *Food, Feasts, and Faith* is suitable as an introduction to the diversity of religious practices associated with food for high school students, lower division undergraduates, and public library general readers.

*Encyclopedia of Food and Culture* (Scribner/Thompson Gale, 2003), a three-volume set edited by Solomon H. Katz, is a major scholarly work providing a comprehensive discussion of food from prehistory to 2003 from an anthropological, archaeological, economical, and historical perspective. Some 300 contributors write about the consumption, nutritional value, production, preparation, folklore, and science of food within regions and cultures throughout the world. Religious aspects of food are addressed from a cultural and historical perspective in various signed articles (see for example Baha'i; Buddhism; Christianity; Christmas; Easter; Fasting and Abstinence; Feasts, Festivals and Fasts; Hinduism; Islam; Judaism; Kwanza; Last Supper; Ramadan; Passover; Sin and Food; Religion) but, unlike *Food, Feasts, and Faith*, religion is not the work's major focus.

The four-volume *Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2011), edited by food historian and author Ken Albala, is divided geographically by regions—Africa and the Middle East, Americas, Asia and Oceania, and Europe—with each region subdivided alphabetically by the countries within that region. Articles addressing the food customs and staples of the peoples living within some 150 countries and cultures have been pulled from Greenwood's *Food Cultures around the World* twenty-volume series supplemented by new articles specifically written to expand the present work's global coverage. Articles are signed by their contributors

and include suggestions for further reading. For each country, and several cultures separately addressed (Basques, for instance), food culture means exploring food's social and symbolic context in relation to issues of diet, food stuffs, methods of cooking, typical meals at home, eating out if relevant, and special occasion meals. Articles generally include one or two recipes for a traditional dish using American measurements. Religious considerations or restrictions are integrated into the food customs and cuisine of each country or cultural group rather than being separately addressed as in *Food, Feasts, and Faith* and *Encyclopedia of Food and Culture*.

While these three encyclopedias cover some of the same material, each does so from a different perspective and with a different emphasis. Users seeking basic information about the intersection of food and religion will find the singular focus of *Food, Feasts, and Faith* a useful and easy to use starting point.—Sally Moffitt, *Bibliographer and Reference Librarian, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio*

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### ***History of African Americans: Exploring Diverse Roots.***

By Thomas J. Davis. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2016. 271 p. Cis-free \$58 (ISBN 978-313-38540-7). E-book Available (978-0-313-38541-4), call for pricing.

*History of African Americans: Exploring Diverse Roots* by Thomas J. Davis chronicles the remarkable past of African Americans from the earliest arrival of their ancestors to the election of President Barack Obama. This work was produced to recognize every triumph and tragedy that separates African Americans as a group from others in America. By distinguishing the rich and unique history of African Americans, *History of African Americans: Exploring Diverse Roots* provides an account of inspiration, courage, and progress. Each chapter details a significant piece of African American history, and the book includes numerous concise portraits of prominent African Americans and their contributions to progressing social life in the United States.

This reference work opens with a brief introduction describing the journey of African Americans that highlights the major topics surveyed within the book. These topics include racism, segregation, equality, and diversity. Following the introduction, there is a chronology of key dates in African American history that provides a quick orientation to noteworthy places, people, and events. *History of African Americans: Exploring Diverse Roots* contains 271 pages of African American history that is prescribed chronologically in narrative form. The book also includes selected bibliography and index sections succeeding the conclusion. *History of African Americans: Exploring Diverse Roots*, the hardcover edition is printed on acid-free paper and includes a plentiful amount of black-and-white images depicting various eras in African American history.

Comparing *History of African Americans: Exploring Diverse Roots* to other resources on the subject of African American history can seem overwhelming because the subject matter is well researched and has been significantly covered by many

resources. These resources include many encyclopedias and general reference works both in print and electronically. While there are many resources that describe specific parts of African American history, like the Civil Rights Movement, *History of African Americans: Exploring Diverse Roots* is a general account of the complete African American experience. The work was envisioned to be an unembellished survey of the African American experience. Several of the newer books on African American history provide much of the same content as *History of African Americans: Exploring Diverse Roots*; however, the arrangement and narrative form may differ. A few other books highlight historic events in African American history by subject while others focus on the location of the events and people. While much of the content remains unchanged, these other resources serve to provide the reader with the significant events of African American history with varying forms of accessibility.

*History of African Americans: Exploring Diverse Roots* by Thomas J. Davis is a wide-ranging volume on the African American identity and belongs in any institution that provides historic resources to its users. No specific person, place, or event is hugely examined, but the book provides a well-ordered introduction to the overall history of African Americans. The individual portraits of remarkable African Americans of the past provide short, yet detailed descriptions of leaders, reformers, and educators that fashioned the social landscape of America. For the reader that desires a universal history of African Americans that is organized chronologically, *History of African Americans: Exploring Diverse Roots* is an ample resource.—Trent Shotwell, *Special Collections & Archives Librarian, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas*

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***Listen to New Wave Rock! Exploring a Musical Genre.*** By James E. Perone. Exploring Musical Genres. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2018. 218 pages. Acid-free \$61 (ISBN 978-1-4408-5968-7). E-book Available (978-1-4408-5969-4), call for pricing.

*Listen to New Wave Rock!* is the first volume in the Exploring a Musical Genre series from Greenwood Press. According to the series forward, the series will consist of “scholarly volumes written for the enjoyment of virtually any music fan” (x). Rather than attempt to provide an exhaustive history of new wave music, this volume instead focuses on fifty musical works the author considers to be “Must-Hear Music” (xiv). This limited focus allows the author to devote more attention to the chosen pieces of music than is typical of most reference resources. The entries provide accounts of each band's formation and early careers that one would expect in a volume such as this; however, what distinguishes *Listen to New Wave Rock!* is the rigorous critical analysis the author applies to each selected musical composition. Topics discussed in any given entry might include the band's techniques for composing and recording as well as the themes of the song's lyrics. While the series forward claims that the entries will eschew “technical terms or concepts,” many