
International Cookbook of Life-Cycle Celebrations. By Lois Sinaiko Webb, Lindsay Grace Cardella, and Jeanne Jacob. 2nd Ed. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2018. 768 p. Acid-free \$105 (ISBN 978-1-61069-015-7). E-book Available (978-1-61069-016-4), call for pricing.

The first edition of this book was published in 2000, under the name *Multi-cultural Cookbook of Life-Cycle Celebrations*. The first edition had one author, (Webb) but the new edition has added two more authors. Webb died in 2012, and the new edition is dedicated to her. The preface does not say why the new authors felt a new edition was necessary, but perhaps it was in honor of the original author. The preface does state that there are a few new recipes and a couple new countries that are covered in the second edition.

There is not much that is noticeably different in the second edition. The term *life-cycle* to describe celebrations is meant to mean milestones, such as birth, marriage, death. The table of contents is rearranged, although the arrangement is confusing in both editions. It would make more sense to this reviewer to have it by continent/region and then alphabetically by country. Instead the table of contents is by continent (Africa) and then by region (North Africa, West Africa) or by region (Asia and South Pacific) and country (Bhutan, Australia). For some reason Mexico moved from being under North America in the first edition to being under Central America in the second edition. The United States is the only country that is divided by culture, in this case, Acadian, African American, and Amish.

After the table of contents, there is a section called “Getting Started.” This section seems to be geared toward children who have never cooked. For example, one tip is “don’t cook alone, have adult help”. Since the original author also wrote a cookbook geared towards students (*The Multicultural Cookbook for Students*), it’s possible this is a carryover from that book, but it seems out of place in this volume.

Each initial continent or region listed has an introduction. Each country also has an introduction about each life-cycle celebration. For example, under Latin America, Ecuador, there is a brief history of the country along with a description of Andean and Catholic wedding ceremonies. Most recipes also have a description of the celebration where the food is eaten. The recipes are easy to follow and include a list of equipment that is needed to make the food. For more unusual ingredients, there is a suggestion within the recipe on where it may be found. For example, ground dried shrimp is available at Asian food stores. Spot checking several countries between the editions, it seems some recipes were kept, and some were swapped out. A handful of countries that did not have recipes in the first edition (Kuwait, Oman) now have a couple listed.

The volume ends with a bibliography that has more entries than the first edition and an extensive index. The cost of the second edition is over \$100, which seems steep for basically a cookbook. If a library already has the first edition, there really is no reason to purchase the second as

there is barely any new text information and only some new recipes.—*Stacey Marien, Acquisitions Librarian, American University, Washington, DC*

MLA Guide to Undergraduate Research in Literature. By Elizabeth Brookbank and H. Faye Christenberry. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2019. 137 p. \$16 (ISBN: 9781603294362).

Though the Modern Language Association (MLA) is most known for their style guides, the *MLA Guide to Undergraduate Research in Literature* is part of a small collection of pedagogical treatises the MLA offers for literature and composition instructors, offering entry points to various foundations of most English coursework.

They state that this guide is meant for undergraduate researchers or instructors, but it would be weak as an assigned reading for undergraduates. Its best use is for English teachers hoping for guidance on teaching literary research papers and especially instructional librarians who work in library or composition classrooms. Because the book describes the research process in similar ways to how it is often imagined in library information literacy discourse—with notions like brain storming and keywords, changing research questions, citation management, and conducting Internet searching—it works well as a foundation for research instruction curriculum.

Though it contains similar concepts to information literacy discourse, it differs from something like the ALA’s popular cookbook series and similar guides,¹ which offer activity ideas for undergraduate library instruction in general, normally reducing humanities to a singular tradition. The *MLA Guide to Undergraduate Research in Literature* dives deeply into all facets of literary research exclusively, promoting subject-specific databases outside of the MLA’s own MLA International Bibliography. Importantly, it tackles particular problems posed in literary research, such as how to research a piece of literature that has not been written about in scholarship or how to conduct advanced literary searches using logic specific to literary criticism, such as theme. It focuses less on activities and more on concepts, though it does include examples and prompts for the classroom.

It is wise to include this book as the foundation of library instruction for the English classroom, following the chronology it offers for literary research and some of its discussions of things like describing *contextual primary sources*. Rather than basing instruction ideas purely on information literacy guides coming from library publishers, this book speaks to the English community’s needs, as written by the English community itself.—*Elliott Kuecker, Instructional Librarian / Liaison for First-Year Composition, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia*

Reference

1. K. Calkins and C. Kvenild, *The Embedded Librarian’s Cookbook*. (Chicago: American Library Association, 2014); N. Fawley and

N. Krysak, *The Discovery Tool Cookbook: Recipes for Successful Lesson Plans* (Chicago: American Library Association, 2016); H. McClure, P. Bravender, and G. Schaub, *Teaching Information Literacy Threshold Concepts: Lessons for Librarians* (Chicago: American Library Association, 2015); R. Pun and M. Houlihan, *The First-Year Experience Cookbook* (Chicago: American Library Association, 2017).

Urban Health Issues: Exploring the Impacts of Big-City Living. By Richard V. Crume. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2019. 295 p. Acid-free \$61 (ISBN 978-1-4408-6171-0). E-book Available (978-1-4408-6172-7), call for pricing.

Due to poverty, climate change, and other factors, the world's populations are becoming more urban. While "urban" is relative to various countries, the shift from rural to urban is happening worldwide. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the world's populations became, for the first time, evenly split between urban and rural. By mid-century, the prediction is that most populations will live in urban areas. It follows that where there are more people, there are also more health concerns. Richard V. Crume's *Urban Health Issues: Exploring the Impacts of Big-City Living* is an eminently readable, accessible volume that addresses these health concerns.

The author's purpose in writing the book is "to help urban dwellers and health professionals understand the complexities of urban health and prepare for a future when maintaining a healthy urban environment will be of utmost importance" (p. x). Because urban health encompasses so many elements, this topic is an excellent one for a general audience. Each of the twenty-three essays explains an issue, its impact on health, how various cities have implemented or planned to address the issue, and recommendations for those living in urban areas. There are also occasional city spotlights, which detail how a place has specifically addressed the health issue—Melbourne, for example, has implemented a detailed urban forest plan to plant 3,000 trees a year to address warming temperatures—along with brief essays from experts. An appendix offers suggestions for urban dwellers, and there is a directory of resources.

While "urban health issues" might immediately bring to mind a factory chugging out polluted air, it ranges from "environmental pollution and the spread of infectious disease to drug and alcohol abuse and the importance of social support networks" (p. ix). In other words, as the world becomes more urban, these will just be called "health issues." Plus, issues such as stress management, water and sanitation, and health care access affect all of us, urban or rural.

Updated works on this topic are necessary, as health concerns can change rapidly. *Urban Health*, edited by Sandro Galea et al. (Oxford University Press, 2019) would be a comparable volume, though more academic. However, *Urban Health Issues: Exploring the Impact of Big-City Issues* is suitable and recommended for public and academic libraries of all sizes.—Tracy Carr, *Library Services Director, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Mississippi*

The World's Oceans: Geography, History, and Environment. Edited by Rainer F. Buschmann and Lance Nolde. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2018. 434 p. Acid-free \$94 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4351-8). E-book Available (978-1-4408-4352-5), call for pricing.

"Moving the world's oceans to a central role, from the role of empty space between the continents" (p. ix-x) and a goal of "uniting research in natural and social sciences with the humanities under an overarching theme of history" (p. X), as described in the introduction, are perhaps not what one might anticipate from the title, in which history is sandwiched between more science-based topics. Still, this work may serve to broaden the perspective students who are predominantly engaged by either the humanities or by the sciences.

The first section of the book is a set of thematic essays starting with the oceans in alphabetical order followed by a selection of issues shared by all of those regions in no discernable order. This feels more valuable as a collection of essays than as a reference work. The second section of the book comprises alphabetical topical entries. These are generally well written, interesting, and enhanced by cross-references. The authors acknowledge the constraints placed on the range of topics by the one-volume format. This is a constraint for potential purchasers to keep in mind as well since it limits breadth and depth.

The two references in the essay "Music and Seafarers" (p. 310–13) to specific versions of songs, as if the reader could see them, are a bit concerning: "In the following version..." for example, does not appear to be followed by any version of any song. This is a minor flaw as it does not reflect a lack of editorial attention overall. The indexing is fair, but the first section especially would benefit from greater thoroughness and detail. There is no distinction in the indexing between minor and major references, nor for the presence of images. Figures and images are sparse, and all are black and white. Lists of further reading throughout support its value as a reference work, though the sources listed are of somewhat uneven quality.

Comparable works largely are of more limited scope, geographically or topically, are not focused on history, or are not reference works. *The Encyclopedia of Ocean Sciences*, 3rd edition, edited by Cochran, Bokuniewicz, and Yaeger (Academic Press, 2019) retains its place as one of the preeminent reference works on oceans, but at \$3,750, it is a much larger investment. It emphasizes sciences, as the name suggests, with history and other subjects in a supporting role. Current historical works about oceans are not scarce, but most or all are not reference works and place substantially less emphasis on natural and social sciences. Cunliffe's *On the Ocean: the Mediterranean and the Atlantic* (Oxford, 2017) is limited in scope geographically and incorporates natural sciences only as needed. The images are colorful, generous, and engaging, and the glossary and index are strong, but the further reading is stashed away in the back where readers must actively