

SOURCES

example, *World History in Documents: A Comparative Reader* edited by Peter Stearns (Pearson/Longman, 2009) includes sources from the same time span, but the focus is more on personal documents such as contracts, autobiographies, and speeches. Another set, *Encounters in World History: Sources and Themes from the Global Past* by Thomas Sanders et al. (McGraw-Hill, 2005) embeds original primary and visual sources into thematic chapters. *Milestone Documents in World History* is recommended for inclusion in high school and academic libraries. Due to the limited number of documents included, however, it will need to be supplemented by other resources that provide access to additional important primary sources.—Gregory A. Crawford, PhD, Director, Penn State Harrisburg Library, Middletown, Pennsylvania

The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Peace. Edited by Nigel J. Young. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2010. 4 vols. Alkaline \$395 (ISBN: 978-0-195-33468-5).

Peace research is a relatively new field of study, but it has grown steadily over the past decades as university programs and think tanks were founded to deal with peace research. Reference works have been published to deal with certain aspects of the field: there are several directories of peace movements and historical guides to peace activism. In 1986, Oxford University Press published the most comprehensive reference work on peace to date, the four-volume *World Encyclopedia of Peace*, which has been updated this year as the *Oxford International Encyclopedia of Peace (OIEP)*.

The main body of the *OIEP* consists of 850 entries, alphabetically arranged, on all aspects of peace, written by scholars from many disciplines. With any reference work containing this number of entries in an alphabetical arrangement, a good index is essential, and the editors have provided an extensive index plus a “topical outline of entries,” which groups the entries into broad categories such as “World Religions and Peace” and “Contemporary Conflicts, Crises, and Threats to Peace.” There is also a chronology of peace in history, a twenty-page timeline of important milestones in peace history, and a selection of one hundred key peace documents, mostly from the last one hundred years.

The editors have decided to limit the number of biographical entries and entries on specific organizations, opting instead to discuss their contributions in more general articles. Roughly 10 percent of the entries are for individual peace leaders or researchers, emphasizing “their ideas and contributions to peace and nonviolence and the evolution of the field” (xxviii). These range from Gandhi, Einstein, and Woodrow Wilson to lesser-known figures such as Dorothy Day, cofounder of the Catholic Worker movement. The majority of the entries, and the more extensive ones, focus on broader topics, such as “Arms Control and Disarmament,” “Conscientious Objection,” “Feminist Eco-Pacifism,” and “Early Warning of Hostilities.” The editors have taken a very broad view of peace studies in this work; many articles might strike the user as more pertinent to other fields, particularly

those dealing with racial or economic inequality and environmental sustainability.

For larger reference collections, especially college and university libraries supporting a curriculum in peace studies, this is a reasonably priced and very comprehensive resource that brings peace research into the post 9/11 era. It is less than half the price of Elsevier’s three-volume *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict* (Elsevier, 2008), which covers all aspects of peace, aggression, warfare, and violence in lengthier entries on broader themes such as “Economic Causes of War and Peace” or “Conflict Management and Resolution.”

Smaller libraries with limited reference budgets, however, should take into account the extraordinarily multidisciplinary nature of peace studies. Much of the content of this work will also be covered in reference sources in sociology, political science, philosophy, history, or religious studies. For instance, the *OIEP* has two entries dealing with Quaker pacifism; there is nothing wrong with these entries but most libraries that would be considering this title will also have reference works in religion and in American history that cover the same material. The more theoretical concepts might also be covered in works like the *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*, edited by Horowitz (Thomson Gale, 2005). The coverage of individuals and organizations might be duplicated in reference works specific to peace movements, such as directories of peace organizations. And finally, one of the ironies of any reference work about peace is that there might be overlap with reference works on war, as the two subjects are irrevocably interrelated.—Peter Bliss, Reference Librarian, University of California, Riverside

Salem Health: Genetics and Inherited Conditions. Edited by Jeffrey Knight. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2010. 3 vols. Alkaline \$395.00 (ISBN: 978-1-587-65650-7). Online access included with purchase of print.

This third edition of *Salem Health: Genetics and Inherited Conditions* is written for the general reader, and is not intended for medical professionals. It was written by professors and professional medical writers for nonspecialists. This edition has been expanded to three volumes, adding 236 new topics. Other entries have either been heavily revised by experts, or have been re-edited with bibliographies updated with the latest sources. Every section now also includes websites of interest. It includes a variety of topics ranging from the science behind the field to diseases that can be passed down between generations. The discipline is looked at from a variety of perspectives, giving historical and technical background “along with a balanced discussion of recent discoveries and developments” (ix).

Salem Health: Genetic and Inherited Diseases is an A–Z encyclopedia with 455 essays on all aspects of genetics. Essays vary in length from two to six pages. All entries begin with defining that topic’s category. Essays on diseases and inherited conditions have sections titled “Definition,” “Risk Factors,” “Etiology and Genetics of This Disorder,” “Symptoms,”

“Screening and Diagnosis,” “Treatment and Therapy,” and “Prevention and Outcomes.” The other essays all begin with a statement of significance, a list of key terms and their definitions, and also feature subheadings to guide readers. This encyclopedia has approximately two hundred black-and-white photographs with additional sidebars, tables, charts, and drawings. Its scope reaches the key social and ethical questions “ranging from cloning to stem cells to genetically modified foods and organisms” (ix). Online access, for unlimited users at every branch or school at your institution, is included with the purchase of print. This makes purchasing *Salem Health: Genetics and Inherited Diseases* very cost-effective.

I compared this encyclopedia set to two similar sources. The first is James Wynbrandt and Mark D. Ludman’s *The Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders and Birth Defects* (Facts on File, 2008). This is also an A–Z encyclopedia, but the entries are very concise. The entries are also not divided into sections, which makes finding information more difficult. *Salem Health: Genetics and Inherited Conditions* provides more detailed information that is more accessible. I also looked at Brigham Narins’ *The Gale Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders* (Thomson Gale, c. 2005). This alphabetically arranged encyclopedia goes into greater detail than *Salem Health: Genetic Disorders and Inherited Diseases*. The entries are divided into sections, and it lists key terms more prominently. *The Gale Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders and Birth Defects* also contains color photographs, whereas *Salem Health* only contains black-and-white photographs. The only thing the Thomson Gale encyclopedia lacks in comparison to the Salem Press encyclopedia is that it does not go into the history and science behind the field of genetics. Both of the sources I looked to for comparison were also written for nonspecialists with the same target audience as *Salem Health: Genetics and Inherited Conditions*.

The audience for *Salem Health: Genetics and Inherited Conditions* is biology and premedical students, public library patrons interested in consumer health, and librarians building specific collections. It provides authoritative information on genetics and genetic diseases in an easy to understand language and format. Of the three sources I looked at for this review, I would recommend the featured title. While the entries are slightly shorter than *The Gale Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders*, Salem’s work contains more updated information, a history of genetics along with the science behind the field, and online content.—Mina Chercourt, Unit Leader, Database Maintenance, Grasselli Library and Breen Learning Center, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio

Truman Capote Encyclopedia. By Robert L. Gale. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2010. 279 pages. Alkaline \$75 (ISBN: 978-0-786-44296-6).

For the Capote connoisseur, this encyclopedia offers a treasure trove of details about Truman Capote’s life and works. Author Robert Gale aims to enhance readers’ enjoyment of Capote, whom he describes as a “protean puzzle” (1). Gale

credits biographers Robert Stanton, Gerald Clarke, Deborah Davis, and George Plimpton for their insights.

There are numerous biographical and critical sources about Capote and his works, including many online reference tools (e.g., Literature Criticism Online, Literature Online LION, Biography Resource Center, as well as other encyclopedias). This 279-page encyclopedia should be especially savored by Capote devotees—those who want to learn more about the man, his immense talent, his innate ability to observe and dissect the human condition, his larger-than-life personality and circle of famous friends, and his impressive body of work. It’s an alphabetically arranged voyeuristic romp of sorts, where readers may feel as if they’re privy to juicy tidbits of gossip. The encyclopedia includes entries for Capote’s characters, even the most obscure, as well as his friends and family members, particularly those who influenced his life and work. Robert Gale’s book provides summaries of all of Truman Capote’s works, with chapter-by-chapter synopses of his novels, as well as descriptions of his short stories and nonfiction prose. Short story and essay entries list characters and identify books containing reprints of the works.

The Capote aficionado will experience hours of enjoyment by thumbing through the *Truman Capote Encyclopedia*. Take the entry, “Truman Capote by Truman Capote,” for example—“When God presents you with a gift, it is accompanied by a whip for flagellating yourself” (242). Those less familiar with Capote and his works are sure to learn more about the enigmatic writer. Readers will find a mix of lengthy and brief entries, as well as a chronology and bibliographic citations. Though the volume does not include photographs, Gale advises that “readers who miss photographs . . . may find an amplitude in other but not better books devoted to Capote, especially those by Gerald Clarke, Deborah Davis, and George Plimpton, and in Richard Avedon’s *Observations*” (2).

This volume offers a wealth of information about Capote and his work, of interest to both casual readers and Capote scholars. If purchasing this volume, shelve it in a circulating collection for greatest use and enjoyment.—Nancy Frazier, Instructional Services Librarian, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

Professional Materials

Karen Antell

Editor

Assessing Service Quality: Satisfying the Expectations of Library Customers. 2nd ed. By Peter Hernon and Ellen Altman. Chicago: ALA, 2010. 224 pages. Paper \$65 (ISBN: 978-0-838-91021-4).

Assessing Service Quality is an admirable blend of theoretical, statistical, and pragmatic assessment applications for academic and public libraries. Providing several methods to address library services and patron concerns, this is a primer