

SOURCES

pedia to address this topic. Other comprehensive reference sources on Jewish history discuss the Jewish Diaspora, but also cover areas outside the scope of this work. The twenty-two-volume *Encyclopaedia Judaica* (Thomson Gale, 2007) has many editorial board members who are Jewish Diaspora scholars. Some duplication also exists with the single-volume titles *Encyclopedia of Jewish History: Events and Eras of the Jewish People* (Facts On File, 1986) and Amotz Asa-El's *The Diaspora and the Lost Tribes of Israel* (Hugh Lauter Levin Associates, 2004). Coverage of the Jewish Diaspora is less extensive in these single-volume sources, but their lush color illustrations put *Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora* to shame. The richness of *Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora*'s text may be a reason for fewer illustrations. The signed articles, many by professors (including Ehrlich, who is professor of Jewish Thought, Texts, and Culture at Shandong University in China), as well as the bibliographies at the end of the multipage articles, enhance the encyclopedia's authority and credibility.

In the preface, Ehrlich outlines the twofold purpose of this encyclopedia: to provide an overview of topics relating to "regions and communities of Jews around the world," emphasizing history and statistics, and to offer an "in-depth analysis" (xv) of how the Jewish Diaspora connects with regions, culture, religion, politics, and various disciplines ranging from sociology to the natural sciences. The layout of the encyclopedia reflects these goals. Arranged thematically instead of alphabetically, volume 1 focuses on themes of the Diaspora, and volumes 2 and 3 examine specific geographical areas. An extensive index in each volume guides readers to relevant pages.

The work covers every aspect of the Jewish Diaspora and highlights the "rare and eclectic elements" of this topic (xv). For example, Ehrlich includes articles on areas where the Jewish population is microscopic or even nonexistent, as is the case in Sudan. Other intriguing entries include "Jewish Women of the Early American West" and "Jewish Identity in Latin American Jewish Cinema."

Several things make this encyclopedia stand out. The articles are engaging and require no preexisting knowledge. Additionally, the survey articles provide consistent structure, including timelines and the use of standard subheadings, for example, "Demographic Movement and Emigration." Helpful statistical tables such as "Jewish immigrants from the Former Soviet Union in Germany, 1990–2004" augment the text, and the twenty-nine-page glossary in each volume enhances its usability.

Even though the *Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora* is a pioneering work, several of its shortcomings should be acknowledged. For example, neither the preface nor the introduction define the term "Diaspora." Moreover, the introduction focuses too much on areas for further study and fails to provide background information on the content contained in the source. Also, there are some glaring grammatical and factual errors. For example, the article "History of Jews in Syria" cites the U.S. State Department's figure of 18.6 million as the general population, the Jewish population as 10,

and the percent of the Jewish population as "approximately 1 percent" (786). This percentage is conspicuously incorrect. Another error involving population is not as easy to rectify in "Jews in Slovenia," where the general population given is 2,004,3942.

Although *Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora: Origins, Experiences, and Culture* meets the goals outlined in the preface, the editors should have read the text more closely. Libraries owning reference titles that offer some coverage of the Jewish Diaspora may wait to add this title until a second revised edition becomes available.—Elizabeth A. Young, *Research and Information Literacy Librarian, Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland*

Encyclopedia of the Social and Cultural Foundations of Education.

Ed. by Eugene F. Provenzo. Los Angeles: Sage, 2008. 3 vols. acid free \$425 (ISBN 978-1-4129-0678-4).

This uniquely browsable encyclopedia was created "to provide a comprehensive background for those interested in issues involving schools and society" (xxxv). It would be beneficial for undergraduates researching cultural aspects of education that correspond to several broad topic areas from which the encyclopedia's 404 entries (authored by 305 contributors) flow. These areas include equality and social stratification, law and public policy, religion and social values, school governance, and sexuality and gender. Editor Eugene Provenzo is best known for his research on video game violence, but also has edited or coauthored more than sixty books on the interrelatedness of education, society, and technology. Associate editor John Renaud is a University of Miami librarian.

Each volume contains a list of the encyclopedia's entries as well as a handy reader's guide, which lists the entries on the basis of topical areas. Most entries are less than three full pages in length, and content overlap across the signed entries is acknowledged by the editors. The list of entries reflects this source's unique coverage: "Company-Sponsored Schooling," "Gallup Polls," "Museums," "Social Impact of the Internet," and "Vending Machines in Schools," to name a few. Some entries require some basic educational knowledge to be recognizable ("Chautauqua Movement," "Dalton Plan," "Julius Rosenwald Fund"). Websites listed for additional information following a few of the articles appear useful (e.g., Temple University's National Center for the Study of Corporal Punishment's site is listed with the Corporal Punishment article). Volume 3 contains three components: Biographies of more than 120 important educational figures (mainly American plus a few Europeans), a 32-page essay defining the social and cultural foundations of education, and a visual history of American education (spanning colonial times to the Civil Rights era), created because "there is no comprehensive visual history of American education" (1005). Surprisingly, this appears to be correct according to a Worldcat search. The history includes annotated black-and-white drawings and photographs as well as a textual description. Indexing

of the encyclopedia appears thorough, evidenced by the fact that most of the entries do not correspond to main entries (which are boldfaced).

Stephen J. Farenga and Daniel Ness' *Encyclopedia of Education and Human Development* (M. E. Sharpe, 2005) also includes valuable sections devoted to social and political issues in education, as well as twenty-five biographies. But the entries are not arranged alphabetically, and, overall, the encyclopedia takes a more theoretical approach to education. Though Rebecca Marlow-Ferguson's *World Education Encyclopedia: A Survey of Educational Systems Worldwide* (Gale, 2002) includes detail on hundreds of countries, the content focuses on the architecture of nations' educational systems, rather than how those systems interface with countries' surrounding cultures. The closest handbook (from a topical standpoint) to the present work is Maureen T. Hallinan's *Handbook of the Sociology of Education* (Kluwer Academic, 2000). It is balanced between theory and practice, yet lacks the unique topical coverage of Provenzo's work. *Encyclopedia of the Social and Cultural Foundations of Education* effectively distills important aspects of American sociology and culture in education. Recommended for academic libraries.—Eric S. Petersen, Assistant Director of Library Services, Dana College, Blair, Nebraska

Encyclopedia of World History. By Marsha E. Ackermann, Michael Schroeder, Janice J. Terry, Jiu-Hwa Lo Upshur, and Mark F. Whitters. Facts On File Library of World History. New York: Facts On File, 2008. 7 vols. alkaline \$650 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6386-4).

Although there is no shortage of world history single- or multi-volume titles already available, the folks at Facts On File have still managed to create a set that could be of use for some libraries. Written to align closely with the College Board's AP World History course, this general reference tool aims to cover the "entire range of human history in chronological order" (vii).

The set consists of seven volumes, of which the final is a collection of primary documents and a master index. Each of the first six volumes covers a specified chronological period, with entries for each period listed in alphabetical order. Each volume also includes an introductory section that gives an overview of five major themes common to each period: food production, scientific and technological developments, social and class relations, trade and cultural exchanges, and urbanization and warfare. The periods covered by each volume of course vary greatly, with the first covering almost nine thousand years as compared to volume 6, which covers only half a century.

Entries include important people, events, cultures, and happenings, as well as more general concepts (for example, The Green Revolution). The entries are straightforward and written without lingo or the assumption of existing knowledge by the user. Both of those characteristics should help the set succeed in reaching its intended target audience, most of whom are not likely to be on the same academic level as the contributors. Cross-references are clearly organized, and

many entries include suggestions for further reading. For anyone interested in learning more about a given subject, these are an excellent inclusion. The length of the entries varies from about one-third of a page to several pages for larger subjects such as Native Americans. Some encyclopedias suffer from making entries on less significant topics too short to be of any use for the user, but this set avoids that problem.

The indexing is well done, and includes not only primary entries but any other subjects that might be included in each entry. It is important to note that the index for each volume is specific to that volume, so users of the set would be well served to consult the master index if they're not completely sure which volume they should be consulting. Each volume also includes a lengthy resource guide.

The final volume is one that may prove of both use and interest. There are a number of primary document sources available, but the large historical range covered in this volume makes it valuable. Starting with the Code of Hammurabi and continuing through to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the volume not only offers sources for research but is an overall enjoyable read for anyone interested in historical sources.

This set should prove valuable, especially to high school libraries and some public libraries. The price may be high for some prospective purchasers, but this is a valuable tool given the scope and the reputation of the publisher. More comprehensive than a work like Oxford's single-volume *A Dictionary of World History*, 2nd ed. (2006) and similar efforts, this is an outstanding work. For those libraries in need of a new multivolume world history set, *Encyclopedia of World History* is an excellent choice.—Craig Shufelt, Director, Fort McMurray Public Library, Alberta

The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Latino Literature. Ed. by Nicolás Kanellos. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 3 vols. alkaline \$299.95 (ISBN 978-0-313-33970-7).

The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Latino Literature, edited by Nicolás Kanellos (professor at the University of Houston and founder of both the literary journal *The Americas Review* and the Hispanic publishing house Arte Público Press), consists of three volumes that are part of the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage project begun in 1990. While the project itself focuses on authors writing from colonial times up to 1960, this encyclopedia provides coverage of Latino literature through the present day. In this work, "Latino" refers to literature produced by authors born in the United States who are of Hispanic origin as well as authors of Hispanic origin who were born in other countries and eventually settled in the United States.

The more than seven hundred signed essays in this encyclopedia are devoted to authors, associations, ethnic and national literatures, genres, historical events, movements, publishers, magazines, and literary topics. For author entries, birth and death dates and other relevant bio-bibliographical, literary, and cultural information are given, and most authors