

SOURCES

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maritime_history) was, as of July 13, 2007, a lengthy survey focused on military affairs and studded with so many links as to be distracting.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History delivers a comprehensive look at maritime history in a highly accessible manner. It belongs in academic libraries and in mid-size or larger public libraries, and should be well used.—Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Indiana

Religion and the Law in America: An Encyclopedia of Personal Belief and Public Policy. By Scott A. Merriman. Denver: ABC-Clío, 2007. 2 vols. alkaline \$195 (ISBN 978-1-85109-863-7).

Religion and its role in the public arena has been one of the most controversial and emotionally charged issues throughout our nation's history. The term "Separation of Church and State," the political and legal doctrine that establishes that religious and government institutions should be kept separate and independent of each other, was first coined by the Supreme Court in 1847. Since then, two centuries of political discourse have failed to resolve the controversy over the framers' original intention in the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. The controversy has become ever more contentious and polarizing, as political groups have increasingly turned to the courts to impose their ideological agenda on states and municipalities when legislators have refused to force religion into public life, or, conversely, to enact prohibitive legislation denying religious expression.

Scott A. Merriman, history instructor at the University of Kentucky and adjunct professor at the University of Maryland University College, has comprehensively addressed the relationship between religion and government since the country's founding in this timely, two-volume encyclopedia. Organized alphabetically, *Religion and Law in America* offers more than 250 articles featuring in-depth analysis of relevant legal cases, biographies of important personalities, and thematic essays covering a broad range of controversial topics that have dominated public debate in recent years, including intelligent design, evolution, and creationism; school prayer and religious expression in public schools; the Pledge of Allegiance; atheism; public displays of religious symbols; political activism; *Roe v. Wade*; the refusal of medical care on religious grounds; and many others. At the same time, the encyclopedia provides a comprehensive historical overview and analysis of religion in public life, including important events, significant political movements, and key personalities. Entries conclude with cross-references and bibliographies, and are frequently accompanied by high-quality photographs and illustrations. Merriman writes in an engaging and straightforward style, and he is refreshingly evenhanded in his analysis.

There is an interesting variety of publications that will serve as excellent companion volumes to the encyclopedia. Leslie Griffin's *Law and Religion, Cases and Materials* (Foundation Pr., 2007) is the newest addition to the University Casebook series and provides a comprehensive overview of law and religion using an academic, interdisciplinary approach.

The book's thorough and frequently overlapping treatments of state, federal, and Supreme Court cases nicely complements *Religion and Law in America's* thematic essays and biographical entries. Stephen M. Feldman's *Law and Religion: A Critical Anthology* (New York Univ. Pr., 2000) provides a fair and balanced anthology of essays concerning religion in public life from twenty-three academic lawyers specializing in religious issues. The work serves as an important reference for readers interested in understanding the constitutionality of laws governing religious expression and public policy. Finally, James Hitchcock's exceptionally comprehensive, two-volume treatment of the Supreme Court's religion cases, *The Supreme Court and Religion in American Life* (Princeton Univ. Pr., 2004), is an impressive historical survey that is free of polemic and includes many obscure cases that have not received much attention. The set serves as a significant resource for understanding the role of religion in public life.

Religion and Law in America is unrivaled in its format, and as such, will fill an important void in American reference historiography. Attractively bound using sturdy, high-quality materials, Merriman's work will make an interesting and valuable addition to collections supporting American history and political science programs. It is therefore highly recommended for all undergraduate libraries and large public libraries serving the interested general reader and researcher.—Vincent P. Tinerella, Coordinator of Electronic Reference Services, Founders Memorial Library, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

Religion in America. By Timothy L. Hall. American Experience. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 496p. alkaline \$80 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6198-3).

Spanning the period from before Columbus's arrival to the early twenty-first century, this entry in Facts On File's American Experience series examines the continuing evolution of religion throughout America's history. Although the author does not state a specific purpose for the title, it is clear *Religion in America* is intended as an overview of religion's role and place in American history.

While this book will best serve as a work of reference, it differs from many reference titles in that it is written in a narrative format. Beginning with the year 1400, fourteen chapters cover the six-hundred-year period of American history. Each chapter begins with an essay followed by a timeline covering the period discussed in that chapter. Author Timothy Hall, who has published previously in the area of American religious history, deserves credit for keeping his writing clear and concise. Without dumbing down his language, he has created a work that is readable for high schoolers, college students, and adults interested in the topic.

The work is strengthened by the inclusion of numerous firsthand accounts, giving a people's history feel to the book. These eyewitness accounts are chosen to represent the whole spectrum of religions, offering as many viewpoints as possible. The timelines are quite thorough, and should prove of value mainly to the students using this work.

The extensive appendixes also should prove worthwhile to anyone researching the topic. There are thirty-one primary documents, ranging from a 1542 discussion of early North America to the 1988 Williamsburg Charter. Also included are a list of biographies for major personalities, a few maps, and graphs and tables tracing the course of religion's development throughout America's history. The bibliography is extensive, providing plenty of further reading material.

If there's a fault to be found, it would be only that the author is attempting to cover an enormous topic over a six-hundred-year period in a single, five-hundred-page volume. However, it's difficult to criticize this approach given that this work does not pretend to be the defining work on its topic. For a single, reasonably sized volume, it's unfair to ask for much more than is included.

There are several texts in existence that deal with this topic, including a few published in the last several years. In terms of approach and format, this work is closest to John Corrigan's identically titled *Religion in America* (Prentice-Hall, 2003), although Hall's work makes better use of primary sources. Hall's *Religion in America* is a work that should prove of value to high school, college, and public libraries. It is a reasonably priced, well-written introduction to a popular topic, and should definitely be considered for purchase.—Craig Shufelt, Director, Fort McMurray Public Library, Alberta

Correction

The citation for *Revolutionary War Almanac* in the review in volume 46, number 3 included an incorrect ISBN. The full citation, with correct ISBN, is: *Revolutionary War Almanac*. By John C. Fredriksen. Almanacs of American Wars. New York: Facts On File, 2006. 768p. alkaline \$85 (ISBN 0-8160-5997-7; 978-0-8160-5997-3).

Professional Materials

Karen Antell

Editor

Best Books for Children: Preschool through Grade 6. 8th ed. Catherine Barr and John T. Gillespie. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 1783p. \$80 (ISBN 1-59158-085-4).

This eighth edition of *Best Books for Children: Preschool through Grade 6* annotates more than 26,900 titles. These recommended titles are collected in this format to help libraries maintain and improve the quality of children's materials in public and school library collections. Librarians use this tool to support young customers in recreational reading as well as to provide support for elementary school curricula. This volume covers materials through grade six, although materials to support advanced fifth and sixth grade readers are to be found in the companion volume, *Best Books for Middle School and Junior High Readers* (Libraries Unlimited, 2005).

Each title has a thorough, concise, and descriptive annotation. Basic bibliographic material provides adequate information for purchasing materials. Each entry can be accessed by subject, title, and author or illustrator. A useful tool is the subject and grade-level index that works as a guide in purchasing requirements for school libraries and appropriate grade placement of materials. The list of major subjects arranged alphabetically with the range of entry numbers for the appropriate titles provides quick access to the most popular subjects. In addition, all out-of-print titles have been removed from the bibliography.

To maintain currency, materials published after July 2005 are not included. With so many books in publication, and with the time it takes to get something printed, currency is always of concern when using this type of bibliography.

This volume is ideal for use in larger collections in conjunction with the *Children's Catalog* (Wilson, 2005) as a source to help librarians evaluate, update, or balance a current school or public library collection; develop bibliographies of recommended reading for children's recreational or student curriculum needs; or provide a topical research source for teachers, students, or public library customers.—Jenny Foster Stenis, Coordinator, Children's Services, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma

Beyond Survival: Managing Academic Libraries in Transition.

Elizabeth J. Wood, Rush Miller, and Amy Knapp. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 220p. \$45 (ISBN 1-59158-337-3).

In recent years, libraries have heard that they are potentially an endangered species in their current incarnations. In *Beyond Survival*, the authors provide guidance and inspiration to academic libraries wanting to move past the status quo. Looking first at the reasons libraries can no longer continue to expect blanket institutional support, the book outlines organizational development tools that can help libraries as they embark on change. The authors then analyze changes undertaken at two large academic libraries.

The authors start by discussing marketing and strategic planning, highlighting two types of strategic planning—Hoshin planning and the balanced scorecard—that have been used in academic libraries. They then explain two organizational development concepts that can be used to facilitate change in libraries. This section could have been overloaded with jargon and difficult to follow, but the authors keep the information clear and concise, and they assist the reader with numerous sources for further reading. The third chapter examines two management models—hierarchical and team-based—and provides guidance on how to choose the appropriate model, or a combination of the two, for particular situations and organizations. This chapter also outlines the questions that should be asked and the resources that should be in place before an academic library chooses to implement teams. While the information on teams and team formation was excellent and well-presented, this reviewer was left wondering whether the team-based approach was the only way to