the work "takes a broad comprehensive approach to identity as a socially constructed phenomenon" and that one of its main premises is that "identities are cocreated via interaction with others" (xxv–xxvi). Among approximately three hundred entries (more than nine hundred pages), there are the requisite listings on "Deconstruction," "Hermeneutics," "Hyperreality," "Simulacra," and the like. Yet the lack of a psychologist on the editorial board is apparent. Many crucial insights from that field, such as James Marcia's research on identity achievement, diffusion, foreclosure, and moratorium, or Hazel Markus's work on possible selves, are only briefly discussed within entries on the development of identity or self-concept. Psychologists' ideas certainly contribute to the notion of cocreated identity and merit entries of their own.

There are notable deficiencies even among the areas that should be the editors' strongest suits. Despite an article on "Absolute Poverty," there are no entries for income or wealth. Instead, most economic aspects are covered within a three-page article on "Class Identity." Similarly, there are entries on "Bisexual/Bicurious," "Gay," and "Womanism," but little information about femininity/masculinity, men who sleep with men, transvestitism, or other aspects of sexuality. If mentioned at all, these only appear in articles on "Gender," "Sexual Identities," or "Sexual Minorities."

Another major fault is that the encyclopedia does not include entries for fundamental attributes that people are most likely to use when introducing themselves ("Hi, my name is Bernadette. I'm a librarian from Pennsylvania. I am married with no children"). Inexplicably, there are seventeen entries pertaining to the arts (including one on "Renaissance Art"), but there are no entries on family roles, occupational/professional identity, educational status, geographic/regional affiliation, or hobbies/recreation/sports. Since encyclopedias are used most heavily by students, it is also unfortunate that there are no articles on clothing, music, and other self-expressions that young adults would recognize. These are significant problems in a work whose "purpose" is to "offer an opportunity to everyday readers to understand identity as an everyday phenomenon, process, and dynamic that affects their lives" (xxv).

It is tragic that the encyclopedia misses or shortchanges so many important aspects of the topic, because there are few if any reference sources available. Although it can function as a starting point for philosophically-oriented readers with a special interest in social constructionism, I encounter few such brave souls among my undergraduates. An optional purchase.—*Bernadette A. Lear, Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, Pennsylvania State University-Harrisburg Library, Middletown*

***Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Society*.** Ed. by David H. Guston. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2010.2 vols. acid free $295 (ISBN 978-1-4129-6897-1). E-book available (978-1-4129-7209-3), $370.

Nanoscience is an area of intense research that promises great innovations, but also raises ethical, societal, and policy concerns. Previous reference works such as the *Dekker Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology* (CRC Press, 2004) and the *Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology* (American Scientific, 2004) have ably covered the science and technology behind nanoscience. However, the *Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Society* is the first reference work to cover the ethical, legal, social, cultural, and economic implications of this emerging technology. Editor Guston acknowledges that compiling a comprehensive resource covering the societal impact of nanoscience is an impractical task but specifies in the introduction that this title is designed to "establish nanoscience-and-society as a topic of discussion and inquiry" (viii).

Guston, Director of the Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University and a widely published scholar with interests in science policy, technology assessment, and governance of emerging technologies, has skillfully assembled more than four hundred signed entries written by an international field of experts from varied disciplines including sociology, economics, ethics, and public policy. More than half of the contributors are associated with institutions outside the United States and provide the varied global perspectives necessary to understand the broad societal impacts of nanoscience.

Entry types are varied and include descriptions of companies, organizations, individuals, countries, products, and technologies related to nanoscience. Entries are arranged alphabetically, typically one to four pages in length, and include cross references and suggestions for further reading. Black-and-white illustrations sprinkled throughout the text add visual interest. The reader's guide found in volume 1 is an indispensible feature that helps readers explore issues in depth by grouping entries by topic, such as "Economics and Business," "Environment and Risk," "Ethics and Values," "Governance," and "History and Philosophy." Using the reader's guide, one can easily explore complex issues such as governmental nanoscience funding decisions, economic development opportunities, and the challenges associated with regulation of this technology to ensure environmental, occupational, and personal health.

Additional features enhance the usefulness of this title. A chronology in volume 1 provides context by charting the scientific advances that have led to the era of nanoscience. Volume 2 includes a glossary that defines unfamiliar technical terms, a resource list of books, websites and journals for additional information, and an extensive index. An appendix in volume 2 containing the 2003 U.S. congressional hearings on the societal implications of nanotechnology provides insight into some of the key controversies and concerns surrounding nanoscience.

The *Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Society* has a pleasing layout and is easy to navigate. Articles are written at an advanced level that makes this title ideally suited for college students and the scientifically literate public who want to explore the implications of nanotechnology. This title provides an essential starting point for understanding the societal challenges and concerns surrounding nanoscience and nanotechnology. Highly recommended for academic and large public

libraries.—*Annette M. Healy, Librarian, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan*

Encyclopedia of Science and Technology Communication. Ed. by Susanna Hornig Priest. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage Reference, 2010.2 vols. acid free $350 (ISBN 9781-4129-5920-9). E-book available (978-1-4129-5921-6), $440.

According to the introduction, this work is aimed at the emerging field of science communication. The research in this field is focused on understanding the best ways to communicate complex science concepts to a general population. It relies on an interdisciplinary approach to identify diverse aspects of a scientific question or issue. Science communication scholars are usually social scientists who rely on media theory to understand the influence of messages and content based on science. The focus of this work is to provide information on the "entire range of interrelated issues in one place," while acknowledging that much of the information can be found in elsewhere (xxvii).

The two volume set is organized with a list of entries and a reader's guide at the beginning of volume 1. The reader's guide section nests the entries into subject categories like "Associations and Organizations" or "Challenges, Issues and Controversies." The contributors are listed with their affiliation. The introduction by the editor puts the work in context, gives an overview of the concept of science communication, and identifies the goals the editor hopes to achieve with the work. Appendixes include an annotated list of science communication programs and an annotated bibliography of resources associated with each entry. The index to the work is extensive, granular, and thorough.

The entries vary from biographies of people, explanation of concepts, overviews of organizations, and descriptions of information resources. They vary in length and depth in the treatment of the subjects. Most have "see also" referrals to other entries in the volumes as well as suggesting further readings, which can be journal articles, books, reports, or websites. Each entry is signed.

I found the introduction to this work to be very interesting and most helpful in understanding the concept of science communication, the types of people who are engaged in this discipline, and the kinds of research they do. However, the expressed goal of attempting to "provide as much information as possible on this entire range of interrelated issues in one place" for this discipline is questionable and probably not very realistic (xxvii). The content in the volumes is uneven. While some of the entries are well known subjects and are lengthy, such as the one on abortion, which gives a great deal information on legal cases and concepts, one wonders about the need to include overviews of journals, such as "Issues in Science and Technology" and others. Another issue is the reality that all the entries dealing with current issues, such as abortion or climate change, will be dated even as the volume is published. The list of science communication programs in the appendixes includes personnel contacts that surely change relatively often.

The editor suggest that the volumes would be useful to undergraduate students and graduate students in journalism and related fields as well as working journalists and public information specialists. This information can be found elsewhere in more authoritative sources. One would hope that our journalists and students studying to be journalists are being trained to seek out primary research.

Perhaps this work would be better conceived in a different, more focused format, such as a textbook in science communication. It seems that this format would be more valuable as a starting point for those engaged in the discipline than a reference work. An important part of any scholar's work is to know how to find the up-to-date information they need in primary literature and not rely on a compilation of past research.

I would not recommend this work. At $350 for the two volume set it is relatively moderately priced for a reference work but most of the content is duplicated elsewhere.—*Suzanne T. Larsen, Interim Associate Director for Public Services, University of Colorado Libraries, Boulder*

Environmental Issues, Global Perspectives. By James Fargo Balliett. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference, 2010.5 vols. alkaline $249 (ISBN 978-0-7656-8097-6).

James Fargo Balliett's *Environmental Issues, Global Perspectives* is a five-volume series focusing on environmental impacts in several different ecosystems and biomes: forests, freshwater, mountains, oceans, and wetlands. These volumes range from 152 to 155 pages and each contain an introduction to the biome, seven global case studies, maps of the case studies, and a conclusion. Each volume also includes a glossary, selected websites, further reading, and an index. Black-and-white photographs, charts, and graphs enhance the text throughout.

The case studies are one of the major strengths of this series because they provide readers with an in-depth look at some specific examples of environmental change occurring within these ecosystems. For example, in the Mountains volume, some selected locations chosen as case studies include the Himalayan Range, Southeast Asia; Presidential Range, New Hampshire; Southern Alps, New Zealand; and Ural Mountains, Russia. Each case study contains a brief description of the site, information about the human uses and impact upon the region, examples of pollution and damage to the area, and attempts made to manage and conserve the location.

Environmental Issues, Global Perspectives is especially useful for its currency. Balliett provides up-to-date information on how these biomes have been drastically altered during the past few decades along with some helpful statistics and figures on population, pollution levels, deforestation, water shortages, and oil spills. One possible weakness is the seemingly anonymous author. Balliett writes very well and appears to be an expert on these subject matters. However, no author credentials or institutional affiliations are stated, which typically are standard practices for most scholarly reference sources.