

SOURCES

This work is reminiscent of the book by Gary Price, Danny Sullivan, and Chris Sherman, *The Invisible Web* (Information Today, 2001). That book unearthed and described collections hidden deeper than search engines would crawl. That book succeeded in illuminating many hidden resources and raising the awareness level for librarians and researcher to seek out these types of “hidden” resources.

The main print competitor to *Digital Collections Worldwide* is the extensive six-volume set, *Gale Directory of Databases* (Gale, 2011). Along with descriptions of proprietary databases, the first three volumes uncover and describe over 11,000 publicly available databases. Each entry provides contact information, the type of resource, a full description, and the URL to the resource.

There also are numerous online competitors. This work, in fact includes a number of these online directories. Two of these are the *Internet Public Library* (www.ipl.org), which provides descriptions and indexing to selected sites, and the *UNESCO Portal/Directories* (<http://portal.unesco.org>), which includes links to library, museum, and archival collections around the world. Some online sites that regularly review collections include *The Scout Report* (<http://scout.wisc.edu/Reports/ScoutReport>), FreePint's publications *Docuticker* (www.docuticker.com) and *ResourceShelf* (www.resourceshelf.com), and the subscription-only *Choice Reviews Online* (www.cro2.org). All of these resources review, evaluate, and recommend digital collections.

Nevertheless, the strength of *Digital Collections Worldwide* is that the authors make it easy to quickly discover valuable digital collections. One will easily learn about new collections by simply browsing through this book. The two indexes at the end are valuable in going beyond the geographical location to find collections as well.

One weakness of this work is that it lists primarily English language sites and leans heavily to U.S. collections. For example, both entries for Panama link to collections found in the U.S. The fact that an entire country includes only 2 entries but entries included under the Library of Congress alone number more than 105 makes one wonder if the authors couldn't have investigated more international collections. In fact, the North America chapter takes up 124 pages of the 310 total pages of resources reviewed.

Although this work achieves much of what it set out to do, it seems most useful to librarians who will use it for professional development and to recommend collections. How long this work remains valuable is also questionable as it illustrates the dilemma of trying to capture a dynamic publishing medium with a static one. As it becomes easier to self-publish digital collections with tools such as ContentDM, Omeka, LibGuides, and Archive-it.org, it will become harder to justify creating print monographs such as this to describe and review these numerous collections. Overall, this work is recommended but not required for most library collections.—Rick Robison, *Dean of the Library, California Maritime Academy, California State University, Vallejo, California*

Encyclopedia of Disaster Relief. Ed. K. Bradley Penuel and Matt Statler. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage, 2011. 2 vols. \$350. (ISBN 978-1-4129-7101-0). E-book available (978-1-4129-9406-4), \$440

In the early twenty-first century, throughout the world, people saw harrowing news coverage of several major disasters—the Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), Hurricane Katrina (2005), the (2010) earthquake in Haiti, the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, and terrorist attacks in Madrid (2004) and London (2005). In the aftermath of such heartbreaking events, whether manmade or natural, we understand how critical it is for affected people to receive relief to maintain and restore the everyday patterns of their lives.

This two volume encyclopedia covers the concepts, issues, techniques, and practices related to disaster relief. Modern ideas of disaster relief began in the early twentieth century with World War I, evolved in the 1940's and changed again during the Cold War. In the United States, the field of disaster relief experienced a large reorganization in 2001 with the formation of the Department of Homeland Security.

This work contains more than four hundred entries, arranged alphabetically, and varying in length from several paragraphs to several pages. Entries address the phases of disaster management such as “planning for disasters,” “mitigation practices,” “phases of recovery,” and “operational response strategies.” Other entries give overviews of disaster types including “droughts,” “floods,” “pest invasions,” “tornadoes,” and “volcanoes.” Geographical entries such as “China,” “Mediterranean Region,” and “Ring of Fire” cover disasters that occurred in specific parts of the world and how governments responded. One of the largest group of entries relate to government and international agencies including “American Red Cross,” “Doctors Without Borders,” “FEMA,” “Peace Corps,” “UNICEF,” and “World Food Program.” Relief case studies of major disasters include “Kobe and San Francisco” earthquakes, “Chinese and Indian” famines, “Hurricanes Andrew and Rita,” terrorist attacks “Beirut, Madrid, and September 11, 2001,” and volcanoes, “Krakatoa and Mount St. Helens.”

Each entry is signed by a scholarly contributor with cross references and a bibliography of further readings. A resource guide includes a bibliography of books, journals and websites of many disaster agencies. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security *National Preparedness Guidelines*, September 2007 are included and an index completes the work.

For readers wanting information on specific historical disasters, Angus M. Gunn's two volume *Encyclopedia of Disasters: Environmental Catastrophes and Human Tragedies* (Greenwood, 2008) is a descriptive account of worldwide disasters over the past two thousand years. *Encyclopedia of Disaster Relief* is a unique resource written in clear, jargon-free language and is recommended for undergraduate library collections supporting coursework related to disaster relief.—Eva Lautemann, *Library Director, Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston, Georgia*