popular culture, and science fiction.—*Grove Koger, Albertsons Library, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho*

U-X-L Encyclopedia of World Mythology. Detroit: Gale, 2009. 5 vols. $305 (ISBN 978-1-4144-3030-0).

This five-volume set, which is also available as an e-book, was designed for the middle school through high school users. The three hundred entries contain information on the major characters, themes, myths, and stories of more than forty world cultures and religions from ancient to modern times.

There are five types of entries: characters, deities, myths, themes, and cultures. The types of entries are designated by different icons and have essentially the same format. The character entries focus on a single mythical character, such as King Arthur or Cuchulain, and have sections that present an overview, the character in context, key themes and symbols, the character in art or literature, and everyday life. Each entry also contains a helpful section titled "Read, Write, Think and Discuss," which could generate ideas for student reports. The nationality, pronunciation, alternate names, source where the character appears, and the lineage of the character are presented in the margin for quick reference. The entries on deities focus on a single god or goddess and have an additional section on major myths associated with the deity. The myth entries focus on a specific story, such as Enuma Elish or the Holy Grail, whereas the theme entries, which tend to be longer, examine a single theme—like fire, devils, and demons—across a variety of different cultures. The entry on flowers examines the beliefs of different peoples about specific flowers (2:396). The cultural entries have a section that guides users to the historical and geographical context of the culture, as well as sections on the core deities and characters, the major myths of the culture, the analysis of key symbols and themes, and the influence of the cultural beliefs in art, literature and everyday life. The cultural entries often contain a diagram of the major deities.

Although the entries are generally illustrated with captioned black-and-white illustrations that are often too dark to distinguish details, each volume does contain an eight-page color center section that adds interest. Entries have "see also" notes but no bibliography for further research. Each volume has a table of contents, a table of contents by culture, a timeline of world mythology, a list of words to know, and a section of research and activity ideas. There is a short bibliography that provides eight to eleven books on the different major cultures. Each volume also contains an index to the entire set.

The information is concise and presented in a manner that will be helpful to users. I do not think that most students will care or take the time to analyze the type of entries—they are just looking for information on their topic. It would have been helpful to cite two to three sources in the body of the longer entries because most users will be disappointed in the appendix, titled "Where to Find More." The suggestions in "Read, Write, Think and Discuss" in each entry as well as the

section of research and activity ideas are unique inclusions for this type of reference work and ones that I think teachers and students will like and find helpful.

There are several reference works for this age group on mythology. Some are restricted to specific cultures, such as Gall's The Lincoln Library of Greek and Roman Mythology (Lincoln Library, 2006) which provides in-depth treatment and five hundred entries on the gods, goddesses, heroes, places, and other important aspects of Greek and Roman mythology. Others are broader in coverage, like Lemming's The Children's Dictionary of Mythology (Franklin Watts, 1999), which has about the same number of entries on mythology from various cultures but not the special features of the *U-X-L Encyclopedia*. This set is a good value; it provides a lot of information from various cultures and times in an accessible manner. Recommended for school and public libraries where patrons do reports on mythology.—*Dona J. Helmer, Librarian, Anchorage School District, Anchorage, Alaska*

Professional Materials
Karen Antell
Editor

Booktalking Bonanza: Ten Ready-to-Use Multimedia Sessions for the Busy Librarian. By Betsy Diamant-Cohen and Selma K. Levi. Chicago: ALA, 2009. 240p. $40 (ISBN 978-0-08389-09652).

These two library dynamos offer here a great resource for the advanced booktalker. If your library is looking for some new tactics to tempt readers, this book could put you on the right track. The authors "hope this book will help you to jazz up your booktalks and inspire your public to use *all* the materials available at your library" (xvi). These booktalks are targeted to elementary students in the higher grades, but additional resources are suggested for both younger (Grade 3 and below) and older (including adult) audiences as well. The authors assume experience in booktalking and do not, therefore, offer much how-to advice, but their many suggestions will pique imagination and inspiration. For example: "when one of us attended a wedding where the 'Chicken Dance' was played, we knew we had to incorporate that. . . . This led to egg stories, which led to science experiments dealing with eggs, which culminated in viewing coops of live chickens over the Internet and looking at online science experiments involving floating eggs" (xiv). Obviously, an intimate knowledge of collections—especially in selecting the audio and video components—is a great asset to these purposes. The authors, thankfully, also recognize that these ideas are to be