

Sources

Reference Books

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The 101 Most Unusual Diseases and Disorders. By Evelyn B. Kelly. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 287 p. Acid free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-61069-675-3). E-book available (978-1-61069-676-0), call for pricing.

There is developing public interest in strange and rare medical conditions, as evidenced by the popularity of television programs such as Discovery Life's *Mystery Diagnosis* and Animal Planet's *Monsters Inside Me*. Of reference works about rare conditions, many focus on specialized topics or are intended for health practitioners. Here, the author, Evelyn B. Kelly, writes in her introduction: "this book is intended for a lay audience who does not necessarily want or need to know all of the medical minutiae related to a particular condition" (xiv). Consequently, *The 101 Most Unusual Diseases and Disorders* may be an appropriate addition for some non-medical libraries.

The work is divided into five broad sections of medical conditions. The sections include "Genetic Disorders," "Mental Health Disorders," "Environmental Diseases and Disorders," "Infectious Diseases," and "Other or Unexplained Origin." These begin with some explanatory text intended to provide a very brief overview and define some relevant terminology. The work includes a total of 101 entries, alphabetized under each section. Each entry begins with a bulleted list drawing attention to facts such as pathology, signs and symptoms, and alternative names. Each condition then includes a longer description and headings for symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and one or two references for further information. The entries vary in length from about one to four pages.

A few features in this work make it particularly useful for readers to browse and develop interest in a topic or condition. The very concise bulleted list that starts each entry provides a snapshot that is very easy to skim. Many entries also provide some boxed text that describe some tangential point of interest such as famous case studies, interviews or health advice. The "Helpful Resources" section simply reproduces the "Further Information" headings at the end of each entry. The single, alphabetized index is serviceable.

Overall, this work accomplishes what the author intended. It is not a comprehensive medical reference work. The strongest features of the book are the ease with which the reader can skim an entry and locate the most important, unusual or interesting facts. It provides a concise introduction to many unusual medical conditions and is most useful as a discovery tool.—Ryan McLaughlin, *Adjunct Reference Librarian, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio*

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Correspondence concerning these reviews should be addressed to "Reference Sources" editor, Anita Slack, Reference & Instruction Librarian, Ashland University, 509 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805; email: aslack3@ashland.edu.

The 21st-Century Voter: Who Votes, How They Vote, and Why They Vote. Edited by Guido H. Stempell III and Thomas K. Hargrove. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-61069-227-4). E-book available (978-1-61069-228-1), call for pricing.

The title of this two volume set suggests that the focus is on voters: their demographics, voting preferences, and motivations. However, the editors state "the aim . . . is to

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assemble many of the key concepts and issues that drive 21st century politics,” (xiii) a far more sweeping goal and one more difficult to attain. While not stated explicitly here or elsewhere, the entries that are related to voting focus on United States presidential and congressional elections. Taken as a whole, this work is a collection of loosely related entries, many of which don't state a connection to voters or voting.

The introductory essays do address the who, how, and why of voters in the United States, albeit briefly. A fourth essay on media and campaigns suggests an unstated fourth theme. A quick review first twenty-seven entries (*As and Bs*) brings to light the lack of connection between content and title. Examples include entries on abortion, affirmative action, antiestablishment rhetoric, balanced budgets, Robert H. Bork, and the Bush doctrine. Of these six entries, only one references voting. The theme of the media, sometimes as it relates to politics, emerges quite clearly. Examples of such entries include Roger Ailes, the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Peter Arnett, and David Brinkley. Entries that directly address voters are of roughly equal length as entries that do not. For instance, the article on the gender gap is slightly shorter than the article on the Kerner Commission.

There are other peculiarities in this work. While entries include suggestions for further reading, those lists do not consistently contain references to material quoted in the entry itself. The organization of the set is interesting. For instance, entries on national campaigns are integrated alphabetically (e.g., “Campaign 2000,” “Campaign 2002”). Information on presidential candidates is nested in election entries that are also alphabetized (e.g., “Candidates,” “Presidential Election 2012”). There is even an entry titled why we vote on Tuesday. The “primary documents” section, spanning 110 pages, contains the 2012 Republican and Democratic Party platforms. This content is easily accessible online.

The 21st-Century Voter is stretched too thin to be a go-to resource for patrons researching voters or even voting in the United States. *The African American Electorate: A Statistical History*, authored by Hanes Walton, Jr., Sherman C. Puckett, and Donald R. Deskins, Jr. (CQ Press 2012) sets the gold standard for documenting and exploring voting history in the United States. One can only hope that similar works will follow. In the meantime, the US Census Bureau (www.census.gov) remains the surest bet for voter data. The Pew Research Center (www.pewresearch.org) and Gallup (www.gallup.com) can help to fill out the picture with polling data.—Anne C. Deutsch, Instruction Program Coordinator, State University of New York at New Paltz, New Paltz, New York

Asian American Culture: From Anime to Tiger Moms. Edited by Lan Dong. Cultures of the American Mosaic. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2016. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-4408-2920-8). E-book available (978-1-4408-2921-5), call for pricing.

Asian American Culture: From Anime to Tiger Moms is a two-volume reference work that consists of 170 articles discussing

many aspects of Asian American culture. Editor Lan Dong has broadly defined Asian American culture “to encompass the historical as well as contemporary cultural practices and productions related to Asian Americans” (xxix).

The entries are organized alphabetically by title and each essay is signed by the author. Each volume contains a “Guide to Related Topics,” that classifies the articles according to ten major themes like “Art, Music, and Theater,” “Family and Community,” “Food,” “Gender and Sexuality,” “History and Immigration,” “Media, Sports, and Entertainment,” and “Religion, Spirituality, and Belief.” Each entry concludes with “see also” cross-references that direct the reader to related topics and also suggestions for “Further Reading.” Volume 2 contains a ten-page bibliography of “Recommended Resources,” descriptions of the editor and 68 contributors, and a comprehensive index.

The major strength of *Asian American Culture: From Anime to Tiger Moms* is in the broad coverage of many of the Asian American groups including those historically underrepresented, such as the Burmese, Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Singaporean, Thai, and Tibetan Americans. Sections for each ethnic group vary in length. The Cambodian American section is the lengthiest underrepresented group at approximately thirty pages whereas the Indonesian, Laotian, and Tibetan American cultures contain the least amount of information with entries around three pages. Readers will discover extensive information about the Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Indian, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese American cultures.

The cultural topics addressed differ depending on the Asian American group, but typically a brief historical overview is provided for each. Cultural essays may focus specifically about art, education, family, fiction, films, folklore, food, immigration, literature, poetry, politics, religion, sports, theater, and women.

There have been many reference works published about Asian Americans in the last few years. Some of which include Mary Yu Danico's four-volume *Asian American Society: An Encyclopedia* (Sage 2014) and Xiaojian Zhao and Edward J. W. Park's three-volume *Asian Americans: An Encyclopedia of Social, Cultural, Economic, and Political History* (Greenwood 2014). *Asian American Culture: From Anime to Tiger Moms* is not as large in scope compared with the other titles and contains some overlapping content. However, it has some unique content including entries such as “Acupuncture,” “Chinese Calligraphy,” “Dragon Lady and Lotus Blossom,” “Sushi,” and of course, the “Tiger Mom.”

Black-and-white photographs, additional text and sidebars about historical events, legal cases, people, and documents have been integrated into many of the sections. For example, the piece about Korean Americans incorporates accompanying text about the “Fox Girl” with the folklore entry “The 1992 Los Angeles Riots” under immigration, and a biographical entry about “Mary Paik Lee (1900–1995)” in the “Korean American Women” section.

Asian American Culture: From Anime to Tiger Moms would be useful as a supplement to other recent reference titles, and