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From the Reference Desk

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Interview — Corey Williams
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from OverDrive, they own the content and can transfer it to another provider. Has ALA been contacted about this matter? As a best practice, should libraries insist that such phrases be standard in eBook contracts?

CW: No, to my knowledge the ALA has not been contacted about this issue and typically does not provide legal advice on individual contracts.

ATG: In another example of publishers aggressively attempting to limit fair use, Kevin Smith reports in his blog Scholarly Communication (a Duke about a proposed injunction in the Cambridge University Press et al v. Patton et al case. According to Smith, this proposed injunction enjoins anyone at Georgia State University from “creating, reproducing, transmitting, selling, or in any manner distributing…any and all Works without permission.” Is ALA monitoring this case? Is the threat as serious a Smith believes? What has been your and ALA’s response?

CW: Yes, the ALA is closely monitoring the Georgia State University lawsuit! Kevin Smith’s assessment is on-point. If the court case is ruled in favor of the plaintiffs (the publishers and the Copyright Clearance Center — who are funding the case), it would be a serious threat to fair use. We expect that whatever the ruling is that it will be appealed, and we will continue to monitor it closely.

ATG: From ALA’s perspective, are there other major threats to fair use that our readers should be aware of?

CW: We actively monitor court cases as well as any legislative activity that may potentially impact fair use, the first sale doctrine, or other library exceptions to copyright.

ATG: Corey, we want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to answer our questions.

CW: Thank you for your questions! It has been fun to pause and reflect on where we are and where we’re headed — legislatively and policy-wise.

From the Reference Desk

by Tom Gilson (Associate Editor, Against the Grain, and Head of Reference Emeritus, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29401) <gilson@cofc.edu>

In an era of lowered expectations, ABC-CLIO is bucking the trend. The World History Encyclopedia (2011, 978-1851099290, $1,845) is a “big ticket” 21-volume set being published at a time when reference budgets are in steep decline, and the validity of reference collections themselves are in question. However, after examining this set it appears that ABC-CLIO is hedging their bets a little. Not only is this title available as an eBook, but the set had been organized with the flexibility that today’s market demands.

After much time, thought, and discussion, editors Alfred J. Andrea and Carolyn Neel, along with their team, decided to forgo “the standard A-Z organization of entries” and developed the encyclopedia along “coherent periods or eras” much in line with the National Standards for World History established in 1994. In order to make the final product as current as possible, the editors mildly altered this schema “in light of our 21st-century purposes and perspectives.” The result was a reference set divided into nine distinct eras starting with Beginnings of Human Society and proceeding to Early Civilizations, 4000-1000 BCE; and Classical Traditions, 1000 BCE-300 CE. These are then followed by Expanding Regional Civilizations, 300-1000; Intensified Hemispheric Interactions, 1000-1500;

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The First Global Age, 1450-1770; The Age of Revolutions, 1750-1914; Crisis and Achievement, 1900-1945; and Promises and Paradoxes, 1945-Present. Except for the single-volume Beginnings of Human Society, each of these eras is discussed in two or three volumes that in a sense constitute “mini encyclopedias.” In turn, these eras are then discussed as they relate to eight themes including population and environment and society and culture as well as migration and travel; politics and statecraft; economics and trade; conflict and cooperation; thought and religion; and science and technology.

Admittedly, this is far more complex than an alphabetical arrangement, but it also makes more intellectual sense. It provides readers with chronological but nuanced approach that allows for a far better conceptual understanding of the history being covered. It also weaves the vast tapestry of world history into discrete, interrelated sections that can be more easily grasped and understood. As a by-product of this, ABC-CLIO has also published an encyclopedia that can be either part of a reference collection as a 21-volume set, or be part of a circulating collection as nine “mini encyclopedias,” hence offering the market flexibility mentioned above.

While each of the major era sections or “mini encyclopedias” are divided into the same eight themes, the articles within each theme are tailored to the era being discussed. Thus essays covering Society and Culture in Classical Traditions, 1000 BCE-300 CE are markedly different from those in Promises and Paradoxes, 1945-Present. However, the quality of the discussions remains high throughout. The articles are written in a fashion that places the facts, events, and people within relevant and meaningful context. Sidebars are a major valued added element common in all of the era sections. They provide useful timelines, primary source excerpts, and references to major technological advances as well as transformative writings, arts, social movements, and ideas. Numerous maps, illustrations, and photos complement the text and brief but helpful bibliographies are interspersed throughout.

Normally, one would expect a comprehensive and thorough index for a multi-volume set with this type arrangement. In this case you would be disappointed. The index here is more like a supercharged table of contents. It is a list of significant subject themes arranged alphabetically across eras with references to specific pages within each era. Of course, relevant pages are listed but those looking to dip into this index to locate a specific fact will be left a bit disheartened. However, as mentioned before, specific facts and events are not what the World History Encyclopedia is all about. It is about pulling together the facts and events of world history into understandable themes and concepts. In support of this, the index does provide a strong sense of what topics and subtopics are discussed era by era.

There is little doubt the World History Encyclopedia is an impressive and ambitious reference solidly grounded in modern scholarship. It boldly sets out to organize all of world history into accessible, well-integrated components and make them understandable and relevant to today’s student. In a large measure, it succeeds admirably and this is no mean feat. The editors and contributors should be proud of this 21-volume set and deserve to be congratulated for their efforts. Both students and teachers of world history, from high school to college and university, will benefit from the insights this work provides. As mentioned above, it is not a set to be dipped into for the casual user. It requires time and thoughtful examination for readers to derive its full benefit, but the effort is well worth it. Obviously given the price and the size of the set, libraries will have to measure cost against patron benefit. But for academic and larger high school and public libraries, it is more than worth serious consideration.

Libraries looking for a more traditional organizational approach and with fewer dollars to spend would be well-advised to consider the 2nd edition of the Berkshire Encyclopedia of World History (2010, 978-1-933782-65-2, $875).

Interest groups and lobbyists may not be held in high esteem by main street America, but they undoubtedly play a significant role in our government and politics. In fact, they have become a major subfield in the study of American politics by professional scholars. These groups advocate a myriad of issues and effectively articulate their positions affecting the passage of legislation and the implementation of policy. And while some may think that interest groups and lobbyist are a recent phenomenon, they are as old as the republic. All this becomes quickly apparent to readers of CQ Press’ Guide to Interest Groups and Lobbying in the United States (2011, 978-1604264579, $185).

This is another reference organized around large thematic sections or parts. These parts focus on interest groups as seen through the prism of history, theory, the growth of government, and specific sectors like agriculture, defense and education. In addition, themes include lobbying tactics, techniques, and regulation as well as lobbying in relation to political campaigns and election, and of course money. And while we often think of lobbying and interest group politics as being focused in Washington, part of the guide is devoted to lobbying beyond the beltway with discussion of the influence of interest groups in state and local politics as well as how the American lobbying style is being employed worldwide.

CQ Press has long specialized in publishing carefully-researched and informed reference works on American government and politics. The Guide to Interest Groups and Lobbying in the United States continues in that vein and adds another impressive title to their list. The essays here are not only fact-filled but revealing of the complexities of interest group advocacy and lobbying as well as the unique role they play in government and politics. Each article is thorough and grounded in solid scholarship, as the extensive notes and suggested readings will attest. Not only will the Guide serve as core reference work for background research, it will make thought-provoking reading for students of political science and public administration as well as interested lay readers. Elected officials and lobbyists might also benefit from thumbing through its pages or visiting its online. Academic libraries as well as larger public libraries where patron interest in politics is high should welcome it on their shelves. It is also one of those titles that, depending on need, could be placed in either reference or circulation, or both. For online pricing, point your browser to http://www.cqpress.com/product/2480.html.


Martial Arts of the World: An Encyclopedia of History and Innovation (2010, 978-1598842432, $180) is a two-volume work recently published by ABC-CLIO that could appeal to a broad audience. Despite being a serious and academic reference work, the popularity of this topic could be intriguing enough for public libraries and even some larger high school libraries to consider it. Admittedly the academic approach may be too much for some, but serious readers and students will find real value in this set.

This is nominally a second edition of an earlier work that was well-received but has gone out of print. However, given the claims of editors Thomas A. Green and Joseph R. Svinth, it is practically a first edition with 75% of the content being new. Added to the enhanced content, the alphabetical arrangement of the 2001 version has been abandoned. Instead, the editors have chosen to organize the first volume geographically and the second volume topically, therefore providing a better sense of context. This arrangement also reduces “redundancy while still allowing for coordination and collaboration between entries.” Volume I is divided by large regions like Africa, East Asia, and Europe and then subdivided into sections like Zulu Stick Fighting, January 1910, Aikido, and Savate, Chausson, and French boxing. Volume II focuses on themes ranging from belief systems to secret societies and globalization to political uses of martial arts as well as from martial arts in the media to military, paramilitary, and law enforcement methods. By cutting such a broad continued on page 55
swath, the Encyclopedia is able to offer articles on topics as diverse as European Chivalry, Japanese Budo, International Karate, martial arts tourism, women’s freestyle wrestling, and warrior societies. Obviously, the resulting work is not a manual of techniques or a discussion of the effectiveness of the martial arts. It is rather a scholarly attempt to view the development and practice of martial arts from the perspective of other disciplines including “anthropology, foreign language, history, kinesics, sociology, and theater.” Hence the martial arts are revealed as far more complex and rich than the image often portrayed in popular culture.

Anyone doubting that the martial arts are a legitimate field worthy of scholarly interest need only examine Martial Arts of the World: An Encyclopedia of History and Innovation to be convinced otherwise. This reference offers meticulously-researched articles steeped in history, culture, social context, and the arts. Each article has a bibliography of relevant scholarly sources, and “see also” references lead readers to related articles of interest. As noted above, a variety of libraries could benefit from having it in their collections. Given its structure and subject focus, it might be more appropriate as a circulating title in a number of instances.

Those interested in the availability and pricing of the eBook can call 800-368-6868 ext. 4 or email <suborder@abc-clio.com>.

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The Encyclopedia of Disaster Relief (2011, 978-1412971010, print $350, electronic $440) discusses concerns and events that have been in the forefront of the news repeatedly. But perhaps more importantly, this Sage Reference focuses on preparedness and response, offering clarity and definition to a rapidly evolving area of study. Edited by K. Bradley Penuel and Matt Statler, this two-volume set consists of 425 articles that cover the “concepts, issues, and techniques” of emergency preparedness and response, in addition to describing numerous individual disasters. In their introduction, the editors state that they “believe that hope lies in multidisciplinary collaboration” in dealing with disasters. The Encyclopedia is informed by this perception and draws from a variety of disciplines bearing witness to this belief.

Unlike the previously-discussed titles, this work utilizes a more traditional alphabetical arrangement. Fortunately, there is a Reader’s Guide that gives a sense of the full coverage of the set while also serving as a finding aid for related entries. Articles are grouped around major themes from geography to preparedness; local response to mitigation; and infrastructure to medicine and psychology. In addition, there are also articles discussing the sociology of disaster, politics and funding, science and prediction, government and international agencies, and of course, specific natural and human induced disasters. The articles are descriptive and factual but in a number of cases can be analytical and proscriptive, particularly when discussing things like mitigation, preparedness, and response. Helpful “see also” references are included for each entry. Other value-added elements include a glossary, a resource guide and an appendix that includes the Department of Homeland Security’s National Preparedness Guidelines. There is just one caveat; the bibliographies could be more substantial.

As noted above, The Encyclopedia of Disaster Relief is grounded in the scholarship of numerous fields; however, it also has a very practical mission. One of the real concerns here is the resulting human need that comes with any disaster. These two volumes not only describe these needs but also discuss the tools, techniques, and methods needed to meet them. As such, the editors have produced a uniquely valuable work that will be eagerly sought after by practitioners as well as students and scholars. Larger public libraries as well as academic libraries, should have it on their short list.

The ALA Guide to Economics and Business (2011, 978-0-8389-1024-5, $65) is the latest in a series of “authoritative bibliographies” drawn from the American Library Association’s online Guide to Reference. As such, it is part of a highly-regarded lineage of classic reference works that can be traced to the first edition of the Guide to Reference Books initially published in 1902.

However, as the title indicates this reference has a unique focus. Edited by Elizabeth continued on page 56

Reviewed by Patricia M. Dragon (Head, Special Collections, Metadata and Authorities, Joyner Library, East Carolina University) <dragonp@ecu.edu>

Walt Crawford’s *Open Access: What You Need to Know Now* fulfills a need in library literature for a brief, non-technical introduction to the concept of open access in scholarly publishing. Anyone likely to encounter the book, from librarians and academic administrators to faculty, really does need to know this information now, since developments in open access are tied to systemic changes in the longstanding traditions of scholarly publishing and of libraries. The urgency of the title is well-matched to the content of the book, easy to digest, and immediately practical.

The first chapter cuts to the chase with the question “Who Cares?” Crawford does well outlining the moral and pragmatic cases for open access, both well-rehearsed elsewhere but helpfully summarized in this chapter. He describes the subscription-based scholarly journal publishing model as “broke,” giving examples of outrageous journal price-hikes, accusing publishers of thinking they can “get away with” charging whatever they think the market will bear (p. 7). Having stated the situation in these terms, he perhaps gives publishers too much of a pass when he writes “I am not arguing that these publishers don’t add value. Clearly they do” (p. 6), but he does not elaborate at that point on what that added value might be. At the end of the chapter is a useful breakdown of the traditional journal publishing process, including the tasks which must be done, who normally does them, and the points at which money changes hands.

In the second chapter, “Understanding the Basics,” Crawford focuses on different definitions of open access as contained in seminal publications during its development over the last ten years. He defines certain vocabulary terms such as green vs. gold OA and gratis vs. libre OA, successfully conveying the complexity of the open access landscape, with its myriad “flavors” and hybrid arrangements involving not only reading access to articles but also copying, data-mining, and reproducing abilities.

The third and fourth chapters address “issues” and “controversies” surrounding open access. The explanation of the distinction between issues and controversies is lengthy and of questionable usefulness, with the sections often seeming to cross the line from one to the other. Organization flaws aside, however, the sections in these chapters are cogent nuggets with enticing subtitles for the distractible reader such as “Can OA Journals Be Competitive?” “What Should It Cost to Produce an Online Journal?” “How Much Value Do Publishers Add to Scholarly Articles?” While his argumentation is at many points derivative, Crawford at least relies upon stellar sources such as Peter Suber. Ironically, there are many points at which citations are not given but would be useful, such as when mentioning “one analysis of biomedical research” which suggested that the amount of money that goes to support publishing is no more than 1-2% of funds in biomedical research (p. 49). As one would expect from an introductory book such as this, the author presents few definite answers, but points out many areas where further research is necessary, such as what funding models work best for open access, or whether conversion to open access has an effect on the impact factor of a journal. He is most engaging when deflating myths, such as the argument that OA undermines peer review: “Saying a thing three times does not make it true,” Crawford writes, “despite Lewis Carroll’s poetry” (p. 47).

The fifth chapter, “Taking Action,” answers the question that many readers will have after appreciating the complexity of the issues and the enormity of the problems in the earlier chapters: what can I do now? Crawford provides action items for everyone. Librarian? Make sure that users have equal access to open content and to subscription content, and make sure faculty understand the benefits of open access, such as greater visibility of their work. Scholar? Look for open access journals in your field and negotiate your rights to be able to...