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From the Reference Desk

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weeks and months ahead, all ordering and approval systems and customer support tools will be integrated into a single customer interface which will be **GOBI**. We will be conducting a “gap analysis” between **GOBI** and **Collection Manager** which will result in us incorporating the best features from each service into **GOBI**. Once that is completed, and after all customers are converted to **YBP** systems, **Collection Manager** will be retired. Customer updates regarding the transition planning will be issued frequently.

ATG: Can you tell us about the purchase? How much money or other securities, whatever were involved?

MK: As this was a transaction between two private organizations, we are regrettably unable to disclose any financial aspects of the agreement.

ATG: Where does James Bennett fit into this transaction?

MK: **James Bennett Booksellers** becomes part of **Baker and Taylor**. There will be no changes in the **James Bennett** operation at this time, except a pre-planned move to a larger facility in Australia to accommodate its growth. **James Bennett** will keep its name.

ATG: Will YBP offer new services that previously were unique to Blackwell?

MK: Yes. Services that were previously unique to one provider, such as **Blackwell's Table of Contents Catalog Enrichment Service**, will soon be offered to **YBP** customers. By combining mutual best practices and resources of both organizations, **YBP** will provide an even greater level of customer service and support to our customers.

ATG: Will YBP expand their services in any way or hire new personnel? How long has this been in the works?

MK: During the past few years, employment has grown steadily at **YBP** (including several members of our management team returning to **YBP**) as we worked to appropriately increase our staff, now at its highest level ever, to meet the needs of our growing volume of business and to offer the increasingly complex new range of services our customers require. With this recent transaction, we are poised to increase our staff size once again to meet the needs of our current, and new, customers. As to how this acquisition came together, both parties have long held mutual respect for one another and acknowledged within the past year that combining our resources would provide a stronger base of resources and capabilities for both organizations to serve libraries worldwide. In fact, the combined organizations create synergies that neither organization could offer on their own. We have noted but one example of a new service offering in response to the previous question.

ATG: Thanks, Mark, for your timely responses! 🐼

From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29401; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) <gilson@cofc.edu>

Sage Reference adds another title to its collection of encyclopedias that draw their strength from a multidisciplinary approach. The *Encyclopedia of Human Relationships* (2009, 978-1412958462, \$425) edited by **Harry T. Reis** and **Susan Sprecher** is a three-volume set that focuses on the research and theory related to what is collectively known as relationship science. Intimate relationships like those between spouses and among family members are discussed as well as those among co-workers, neighbors and professional associates.

The disciplines drawn from are more diverse than one might initially think. Core fields like psychology, sociology and communications are well represented but so are others less obvious like neuroscience, anthropology, legal studies and physiology. Articles focus on a rich variety of topics including cognitive and communication processes, health and biology, social context, the role of individual personality and broader emotional and psychological processes. A number of entries also discuss what the editors categorize as the “dark side of relationships.” Following on this theme there are articles on topics like abuse and violence, bereavement, bullying, incest, loneliness, hostility, rejection, revenge and shyness. Rounding out the coverage there are articles that focus on the theoretical underpinnings of relationship science as well as specific methodologies employed in its study.

The articles are academic and grounded in scholarship being, for the most part, intended for undergraduate and graduate students as well as a professional audience. However, needed definitions and explanations are provided throughout enabling interested lay readers to easily comprehend and benefit from the contents of the set. The organization of the three volumes lends itself to ease of use. The articles are alphabetically arranged with a full list of all entries in the front of each volume. There is also a reader's guide that groups the articles under eighteen related categories while each article has a list of “see also” references. Helpful bibliographies are provided for each entry and a thorough and comprehensive index provides access to information at the volume and page level.

All in all, the *Encyclopedia of Human Relationships* is a well conceived and professionally produced reference that covers relationship

science more comprehensively than either *The Cambridge Handbook of Personal Relationships* (2006, 0-521-47524-4, \$90) or the dated *Encyclopedia of Relationships Across the Lifespan* (Greenwood, 1996, 978-0313295768, \$165). It will primarily appeal to academic libraries but large public libraries with demand for information on relationships will also find it a valuable addition.

Another **Sage** publication possessing similar positive qualities is the *Encyclopedia of Medical Decision Making* (2009, 978-1-4129-5372-6, \$375). Edited by **Michael W. Kattan** and **Mark E. Cowan**, this two-volume set draws on the expertise of contributors from fields as disparate as econometrics, psychology, and ethics to create a collection of some 300 articles discussing numerous relevant topics.

The approach is both normative and descriptive in that articles “investigate the processes and technology by which optimal medical decisions should be made,” as well as describe the way such decisions are made under real life pressures and limitations. Much of the encyclopedia is made up of articles that cover scientific and analytical topics falling under categories like biostatistics and clinical epidemiology, decision analysis and mathematical models, health outcomes and measurement and the impact or utility of the possible outcomes. On the more descriptive side there are essays that discuss subjects like cultural issues, the level of trust in the healthcare system, the type decisions faced by the patients as well as by their proxies, the quality of data being used, medical errors, patient rights, and religious factors.

The main audience for this set is students, scholars and professionals. While every attempt is made to make the articles accessible to the informed lay reader the more technical articles will require carefully reading. Entries on topics like analysis of covariance, decision trees, net benefit regression and test treatment threshold entail time and effort to assimilate the formulas, graphs and charts used to explain these concepts and methods. But the results are worth the effort to gain an understanding of these important topics. Naturally, each article has “see also” references to related articles as well as lists of further readings. A useful general index rounds out the set providing direct access to specifics.

Encyclopedia of Medical Decision Making is a serious work that illuminates important concerns. There is nothing else quite like it in the reference literature with its authoritative focus on both the analytical and real world elements of medical decision making. This set will be of particular value in health science and hospital libraries. Larger academic libraries may also want to give it strong consideration. Given the specific nature of its coverage, these libraries may prefer placing it in circulating collections.

continued on page 44

Regardless, this is a quality set that deserves a place in a variety of libraries.

Grey House Publishing is coming out with a number of new editions that libraries finding previous versions useful will want to consider. *Nations of the World: A Political, Economic and Business Handbook* (2010, 978-1592374359, \$180) is now in its ninth edition and covers 232 nations throughout the world. Each entry provides a country overview consisting of historical background, current political and economic status, as well as "key facts" like population, unemployment figures, inflation rate, GNP, foreign debt, imports and exports, etc. This is followed by a more in-depth country profile with a chronological rundown of major historical events, followed by discussions of the political structure, education, health and welfare conditions, the languages spoken, and the dominant forms of media. A fair amount of space is also given to economic issues like trade, agriculture, banking, mining and tourism as well as to the environment, energy and the climate. There is also useful information for prospective travelers including entry requirements, health precautions, security concerns, tips about social customs and types of transportation available. A brief business directory ends each entry and consists of contact information for chambers of commerce, major banks, government ministries, and other business related agencies. As with past editions, *Nations of the World* offers a handy one stop source pulling together a lot of helpful information.

The eighteenth edition of the *Complete Directory for People with Disabilities* (2009, 978-1-59237-431-1, \$165.00) is also available. As with past editions, thousands of resources are provided covering a diverse range of services. The first section of the book is devoted to general resources for people with disabilities. Coverage ranges from companies that provide assistive devices and specialized computers to foundations that offer funding to programs that support the disabled. Parts of this section also list relevant associations, conferences and shows, rehabilitation facilities, educational resources, government agencies and camps. The remainder of the book offers a separate section that provides similar information for specific disabilities ranging from aging to mobility and from the blind and deaf to speech and language disorders. Sections are arranged by relevant categories and when appropriate resources are listed by state. All entries offer resource descriptions as well as full contact information. Three indexes assist readers in locating specific information by disability and subject, geographic location and entry and publisher. The *Complete Directory for People with Disabilities* is also available online which might be preferable for libraries that have high demand for such information. Price quotes are available at <http://www.greyhouse.com/online-pricequote.htm>.

Greenwood has also published two titles that have been on this reviewer's list for awhile.

Latino America: A State by State Encyclopedia (2008, 978-0-313-34116-8, \$175) is edited by **Mark Overmyer-Velázquez** the Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, **University of Connecticut**. As the title implies, this reference provides information about the state by state impacts of America's ever growing Latino/a population. For the purposes of this work that encompasses descendents and new immigrants from Mexico, South America and the Caribbean.

The two volumes are arranged alphabetically by state and also include the District of Columbia. Each entry starts with a chronology that gives the reader a time frame often from the earliest evidence of Spanish exploration to the current day population growth phenomena. The chronology is followed by a narrative historic overview that includes discussion of the resulting social, political and economic changes including tensions and adjustments. A list of notable Latino/as is also provided as is a section on specific cultural contributions. Each essay ends with a list of notes and a bibliography. Researchers will find that the sources in the bibliographies are fairly diverse and include books, articles, dissertations and web sites. All entries are signed and there is a list of contributors along with their academic affiliations at the end of volume two. There is also an appendix of state by state census statistics for Latino/a population from 1970–2000. Some figures for other years as far back as 1870 are also listed but given the lack of relevant census data, these are spotty and incomplete. A useful general index completes the set.

Latino America: A State by State Encyclopedia is a fascinating and valuable reference work. It sheds light on the growing influence and impact of the fastest growing minority in America. Whether discussing Alaska, where Latino/as are 5.2% of the state's population or New Mexico, where Latino/as are the ethnic majority, editor **Overmyer-Velázquez** and his contributors are adept in using research coupled with statistics to reflect the historic and current impacts of fastest growing minority population in America. Although grounded in scholarship and edited and authored by academics this work should have broad appeal and will be of equal use to high school students, undergraduates and the general reader. Larger libraries where there is strong demand (and equally strong budgets) may want to place the print edition in circulation and use the eBook version for reference. The electronic edition is available from **ABC-CLIO** who has the license to all **Greenwood** titles. The Website is at <http://ebooks.abc-clio.com>.

The next title is the *Greenwood Encyclopedia of Clothing through American History, 1900 to the Present* (2008, 978-0-313-35855-5, \$199.95) and according to the **ABC-CLIO** Website, it is the first in projected series of similar references to be published by **Greenwood**. Under the general editorship of **Amy T. Peterson** and **Ann T. Kellogg**, these initial two volumes attempt to "examine the

relationships between social, cultural and political developments and fashion in the United States." Therefore, while the fashions that people choose to wear are major focus of this reference, the reasons they wear them are given more than equal billing.

Eschewing the traditional alphabetical arrangement, each volume in this set covers different time periods. Volume one deals with 1900-1949 while the second volume covers 1950 to the present. Each volume starts with its own chronology of world and fashion events and then is divided into two large parts entitled the Social Significance of Dress and Fashion and the Fashion Industry. These large parts start with overview essays and then are divided into chapters which are in turn subdivided into time periods. For example, in the Social Significance part of volume one there is a chapter entitled Arts and Entertainment which is divided into sections for each decade covered i.e., the 1900's, the 1910's, etc. The same goes for the Fashion Industry part. There are individual chapters devoted to Women's, Men's and Children's fashions with individual sections covering each decade.

While this arrangement takes a bit of getting use to, the information in this set is worth the effort. Fashion does not occur in a vacuum. It is both an expression and a result of the time in which it occurs. Readers can get a solid sense of fashion in the context of the time that produces it by exploring these books. However, the proper use of this set will require some time and work on the reader's part to make many of the relevant connections. Admittedly, this arrangement is not the type that enables one to access specific facts easily. However, the general indexes contained in both volumes are a great help in this regard. For example, looking for information on men's sportswear, I was clearly directed to the specific volumes and pages containing the relevant information. As additional value added features, each volume has its own glossary and resource guide listing books, films and videos, museums, organizations, special collections and Websites. They are also illustrated with both black and white as well as color photos.

The *Greenwood Encyclopedia of Clothing through American History, 1900 to the Present* is another work that will be useful to a wide range of readers from public library patrons to high school students to college undergraduates. As such, it is also another one of those works that is equally suitable for circulating collections. Some subscribers to *Greenwood's Daily Life Online* database may have access to it electronically. For information about the electronic version of this work you can call 805-968-1911 or email <sales@abc-clio.com>.

(As mentioned above, according to a list of titles on the **ABC-CLIO** Website, this set is the first of a projected series. The other two titles *Clothing through American History: The Federal Era through Antebellum, 1786-1860* and *Clothing through American History: The Civil War through the Gilded Age, 1861-1899* will be published in 2010 and are single volumes.)