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From the Reference Desk

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KL: Our primary competitors in Russia and China are the domestic intermediary organizations — both traditional and newly-established. The traditional ones are more wedded to print and in most cases have not evolved well into handling digital materials. I don't think that any of them cover the spectrum of producer to end-user as well as we do. Half of **East View** is dealing with suppliers and producers, and the other half of **East View** is dealing with customers and end-users like librarians, researchers and scholars. Ultimately, much of what we do involves value-adding, including through the creation and provision of MARC records and other metadata, services for other intermediary players like link resolvers, digitization, and so on.

We have over 2000 direct and indirect customers, including virtually every ARL institution. Our fastest growth has been among Russian libraries — it's a good sign that Russian consumers buy our Russian products, which generally speaking were developed for western audiences.

As for the recession, we are girding ourselves for what will obviously be a challenging time for all markets — academia, public library, governmental, corporate. Flexibility and innovation will be key, as will constant communication with both our suppliers and customers. I'm optimistic. Over half of **East View's** employees have already been through a cataclysm of political-economic proportions, namely the collapse of the USSR. I think this was even rougher than the US Great Depression, comparatively. Not that we'd like to repeat either experience...

ATG: Please tell us about yourself. What do you like to read? Education? Family? Hobbies?

KL: I'm a voracious reader, but not enough of books. I sponge up most issues of the *New York Times*, the *Financial Times*, and the *Economist*. My wife is the love of my life and best friend. She also has worked at **East View** for the past 10 years as Director of Operations of **EVIS**. I am blessed to have four wonderful children, ages 17 through 22. I'm not sure

against the grain people profile

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Kent D. Lee

BORN AND LIVED: Minneapolis, MN.

EARLY LIFE: Oldest child of hard-working machine-shop owner and nursing supervisor. Grew up hunting and trapping before suburban sprawl took over family home. Formative job was night shift emergency room technician while going to college.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Running **EVIS** and **EVC**.

FAMILY: Wife **Zina** and four kids (**Sasha, Nadia, Alex, Rachel**).

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE: Pheasant hunting, mushroom hunting, skiing, winter camping.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *Zorba the Greek*, *Paradise Below Zero*, *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA*.

PET PEEVES: Televisions.

PHILOSOPHY: The Golden Rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. It's a small world and what goes around comes around.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Working to make the achievements of Russian cartographers known worldwide — Russians are to maps as the French are to wine.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Successfully execute the **EVIS** vision of becoming the preeminent intermediary in the "foreign" language information business.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Better than the present. There will still be too many products, lots of language/metadata challenges, lots of funding challenges for libraries and other end-users, but intermediaries and publishers will still have a big role to play. 🍷

what was more challenging — not sleeping and changing diapers for years, or trying to put four kids through college. **EVIS** has an investment property in the Canadian Rockies and we try to get there as much as possible for skiing, climbing, caving, just general relaxation. One of my

aborted majors in college was fine arts (ceramics) and I hope one day soon to rebuild my old pottery kiln and start throwing pots again. I've got several tons of great stoneware clay slaking down in the garage, ready to become something useful as soon as I can get the time. 🍷

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>

Oxford University Press adds to its collection of exceptional works on African American History with the publication of the *Encyclopedia of African American History 1896-Present* (2009 9780195167795, \$595). Subtitled *From the Age of Segregation to the Twenty First Century* this work chronicles both the trials and tribulations that African Americans have endured as well as their successes and triumphs up to, and including, the recent election of **Barack Obama**.

Edited by respected scholar and specialist **Paul Finkelman**, these five volumes contain some 1,250 articles covering an impressive diversity of topics and issues from art and

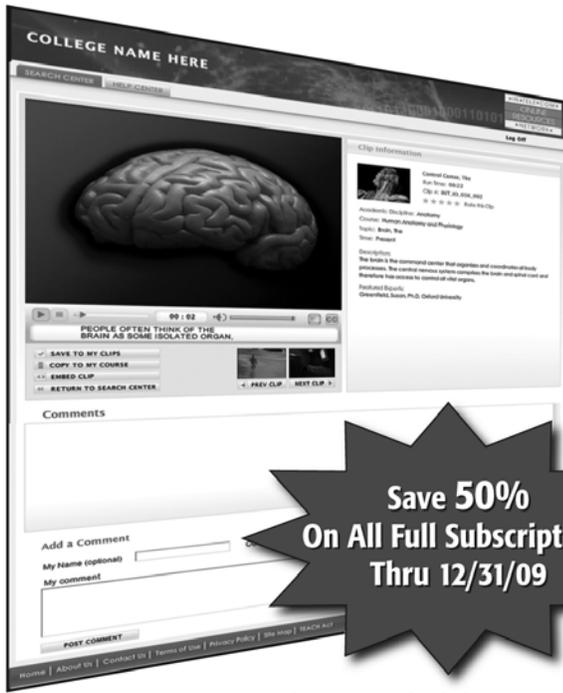
architecture to laws and legislation; education and academics to radio, television and film; and racism and segregation to political and social movements. In addition, numerous biographical sketches are included. These entries cover the full range of occupations and professions from civil rights activists to minstrel show performers and from entrepreneurs and business professionals to religious leaders. The articles are descriptive and fact filled overviews offering solid factual information as well as a starting point for further discovery. As you would expect, each entry has a bibliography of relevant books and articles appropriate to the importance of the topic as well as "see also"

references to related entries. Each article is signed and black and white photos complement the text.

The *Encyclopedia* also offers numerous special features including a complete directory of contributors and their affiliations, a thematic outline of entries, a chronology, and a thorough and comprehensive index. As one examines this set, the overall impact is one of expert, but accessible, scholarship presented with quality production values focused on meeting the needs of readers. Scholars, students as well as interested lay readers will find this work both useful and appealing.

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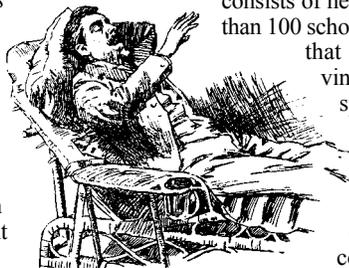
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This five-volume set continues in the tradition of its acclaimed earlier companion, the *Encyclopedia of African American History 1619-1895* (2006, 978-0195167771, check **Amazon** or **B&N** for pricing). They are both significant achievements that anyone with a serious interest in the African American experience will value, and as such, are core additions to most college and university libraries. (Both sets are part the online reference collection **Oxford African American Studies Center** at <http://www.oxfordaasc.com/public/>.)

In terms of the recent literature, these companion sets offer more specific focus than **Oxford's** *Africana: the Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience* (2005, 978-0195170559) and are slightly more up to date than **Gale's** *Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History: the Black Experience in the Americas* (2005, 978-0028658162). However, in all fairness, it must be said that these other works are exceptional in their own ways and libraries needing to build collections supporting African American studies will want to own them all.



The *Encyclopedia of African Religion* (2009, 9781412936361, \$325) offers a unique look at a topic that up to this point has received little, if any, attention in the reference literature. Published by **Sage**, this two-volume set seeks to explain the concepts and complexities of African religion and its response to the sacred. However, it does so with respect for the traditional and indigenous, and not filtered through a Christian or Western perspective. It is informed by the concept of Africism "an umbrella term that ... represents the oneness of African religion as manifested in the diverse religious expressions observed in Africa." It is also presents "classical African religious ideas" ... "as significant forerunners of much of continental African thought," thus showing the essential influence traditional religion has in the life of the continent.

Edited by respected scholars **Molefi Kete Asante** and **Ama Mazama**, the *Encyclopedia* consists of nearly 500 articles written by more than 100 scholars. Coverage runs from articles that discuss specific deities and divinities to those that focus on sacred spaces and objects, ancestral figures, taboos and ethics, as well as ritual and ceremonies. There are also entries that describe individual traditions, important concepts and values, the place of communalism and family, the im-

portance of symbols, signs, and sounds and relevance of specific texts and oral traditions. The articles are straightforward and factual but often contain references to the work of other respected scholars. Aside from the general index, there is a Reader's Guide that locates articles on related topics as well as "see also" references placed at the end of each article. There is also an appendix listing the names of **God**, or the supreme deity, used by ethnic groups throughout Africa and a comprehensive bibliography gathered from the various entries in the *Encyclopedia*.

The *Encyclopedia of African Religion* is a deeply serious work dedicated to the mission of "elevating the discourse" about the "African contribution to ideas of religion, spirituality, and ethics." Whether discussing broad concepts like ontology or cosmology or individual traditions like Dogon or Mende, it offers a perspective centered in the African experience untainted by Western notions of Africa. In providing this approach, editors **Asante** and **Mazama** do both students and scholars a service that will be appreciated. Academic libraries that support religious or African studies program will definitely want a copy in their reference collections, and possibly one for circulation if budgets allow.

This title is also available from **Sage Reference Online**. In order to get pricing information, email **Sage** at <librarysales@sagepub.com>.

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Students of American folk music will welcome a recent publication from **Greenwood**. Authored by **Norm Cohen**, *American Folk Songs: a Regional Encyclopedia* (2008, 978-0313340475, \$149.95) is a two-volume set that provides the lyrics along with the historical context for 487 folk songs from across the country.

In defining folksongs, **Cohen** takes “the perspective that these are songs that survive in the community without the need for commercial media.” They are songs that are “perpetuated by transmission from person to person or community to community by noncommercial means (generally orally, but other media can serve.)” According to **Cohen**, the songs collected here all fit under these criteria at one time or another.

Divided by region the set works its way westward thus showing a chronological development by default. The first volume covers New England, Midland (North Atlantic) the Upper South and the Deep South and the Ozarks. The second volume moves steadily west discussing the Great Lakes, Midwest Plains, Southwest, Mountain Region and the Far West and the Pacific. These broad regions are divided by individual states and then within the states the songs are presented

chronologically. However, the set does not contain individual entries as such. These regional sections take the form of long essays with subheadings for each state covered. Each of these state sections provides the lyrics of songs accompanied by its historical context as well as a discussion of the origins and the dissemination history of the song. In fact, one of the features of the set is the reprinting of some of the original broadsides uses to circulate the songs. These help illustrate the *Encyclopedia* as well as provide a nice historical touch. A variety of song types are covered including war songs, those that center on historical events, tragedies and disasters, songs in praise of the state or its inhabitants, songs about local crimes or criminals and ethnic songs. The vast majority are in English although there are a few Spanish language songs, especially in the Southwest and Far West and Pacific sections. Providing access to the text is a song index as well as general index. The song index is alphabetical by title and points to the state and regional section where the song can be found, but oddly, not the page number. However, it does reference other sources where the songs are listed including **G. Malcolm Laws’ Native American Balladry** and his *American Balladry from British Broadsides* as well as the **Roud Folksong Index**, an electronic folksong database maintained at <http://library.efds.org/cgi-bin/query.cgi?query=>. In addition, the scholarly value of the set is also enhanced by the fairly extensive bibliographies that end each regional essay.

Some might argue that if the *American Folk Songs: a Regional Encyclopedia* has a drawback, it is the limited sense of the actual music or the tunes associated with the songs. But in the *Encyclopedia’s* defense, the set is not intended as a songbook for performance. It will primarily be of interest to those students and scholars concerned with what these songs say about “the various turns of American culture and style.” As **Mr. Cohen** himself notes it is historians, folklorists, musicologists and sociologists who will reap the greatest rewards from this work. As such, it is highly useful survey that will be equally at home on circulation shelves as it is in reference collections. It is a set worth considering by academic libraries as well as by larger public libraries where there is enough patron interest.

Facts on File adds to its *Almanacs of American Wars* series with the *Vietnam War Almanac* (2009, 978-0816071029, \$95). Written by **James H. Willbanks**, the director of the Department of Military History at the **U.S. Army Command and General Staff College**, this work follows the successful lead of the prior titles in this series.

The bulk of this volume is devoted to a day by day chronology that enables the reader to trace America’s involvement in Vietnam from the joint French-American advisory phase starting in 1950 through the American

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Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

Column Editor: **Debbie Vaughn** (College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

Column Editor’s Note: Libraries and librarians have had a complex relationship with **Google** since the Internet conglomerate’s search engine grew in popularity about a decade ago. People’s ability to easily peruse the World Wide Web has seemingly decreased the demand for librarians’ assistance in the quest for information; however, the information available at one’s fingertips has increased the need for assistance in organizing and sorting through the glut of information available to those very people. This paradox has been explored and editorialized in newspapers, trade publications, peer-reviewed journals, and books — including **Fool’s Gold: Why the Internet is No Substitute for a Library**. How has **Google**, the most popular search engine, become practically synonymous with Internet searching? The verb “google” can even be found in the **OED**, and it seems that once a noun becomes so commonplace that it is used a verb (think: “networking,” “scrapbooking,” and — thanks to **Calvin and Hobbes** — “verbing”), then that noun/verb has potentially changed the course of history — or at least popular culture. It is fitting, then, that **Greenwood’s** series *Corporations That Changed the World* should include **Google** in its ranks.

In this month’s column, please welcome two new **ATG** reviewers. **Jolanda-Pieta van Arnhem** (**Joey**) has worked at the **College of Charleston** for about as long as **Google** has been around, first as an educational technologist and most recently as a library technologist. She completed her M.F.A. in Visual Arts with a specialization in visual culture studies at the **Vermont College of Fine Arts** in 2009. **Jolanda** is currently working with the **College’s** Reference Librarians to expand the library’s Information Literacy offerings into the social Web and online multimedia. She is also an adjunct professor in the

Department of Sociology and Anthropology where she teaches *Research Methods in Expressive Culture*. **Jerry Spiller** completed his M.S.I.S at the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** in 2004.

With a background in language and culture studies as well as information design, he coordinates the **College of Charleston’s Language Resource Center**, teaching workshops on information resources and designing the Websites for the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs. Happy reading, everyone! — **DV**

Herring, Mark. *Fool’s Gold: Why the Internet is No Substitute for a Library*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2007. 9780786430826. 191 pages. \$45.00.

Reviewed by **Jolanda-Pieta van Arnhem** (Library Technologist, College of Charleston Libraries) <vanarnhemj@cofc.edu>

Fool’s Gold is a satirical expansion of **Dr. Herring’s** ten talking points on why the Internet is no substitute for a library that became an article and a poster. **Dr. Herring** is the Dean of Libraries at **Winthrop University** in South



Carolina. His book opens a larger discussion about the quality of knowledge that can be gained in a library versus what may seem a random collection of information found online. The discussion ex-

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force build up and initial combat in the mid 1960's, to the large unit offensive expansion in 1967-69, to the Vietnamization and the American withdrawal in the early 1970s, and finally to the fall of Saigon in 1975. There is also a section of brief biographies covering the major players from **William Westmoreland** to **Ho Chi Minh** and from **Richard Nixon** to **General Vo Nguyen Giap**. Adding to the value of the book are a series of appendices that include information like the U.S. troop commitments by year, the military force commitments by America's allies, Allied casualties by year, specific U.S. military campaigns during the war, U.S. government expenditures on the war, troop withdrawals from 1969-1972, and Medal of Honor recipients. There is also a short section of useful maps as well as a selected bibliography and a helpful general index.

The *Vietnam War Almanac* is a handy and compact volume that will play multiple roles from finding a useful place on library reference and circulating shelves to supplementing the personal collections of students and scholars. In fact, anyone with a serious interest in the complexities America's experience in Vietnam will find this a fact filled and balanced compendium of valuable information. 🌿

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plicates the issues that surround both the betterment and the drawbacks provided by the Web in library services. **Herring** presents the argument that a decline in teaching, as well as in reading, is resulting in an overall deterioration of literacy in today's society. This trend, along with the ubiquitous availability of information provided by **Google** and other search providers is fueling the potential for libraries to become obsolete as new generations of users fail to appreciate its services. There are comprehensive chapter notes for each chapter, along with lists of Web resources that illustrate the points and examples given in the text.

Herring notes the overwhelming amount of information available on the Web, pointing out the distinction between mere information and knowledge, which requires both the theoretical foundations and practical applications that human experience bring. He argues that libraries collect and organize knowledge, which the Web cannot do. He also points out the pitfalls of unregulated incursions of misinformation, fraud and predation possible on the Web. The dangers of sites run by hate groups or the possibility of identity theft are two examples he offers for the superiority of the library environment. Indeed, **Herring** makes frequent calls for Internet filtering in libraries, removing potentially pornographic



“Modern invention has banished the spinning wheel, and the same law of progress makes the woman of today a different woman from her grandmother.” – Susan B. Anthony

These words are as true today as they were a century ago. Susan Brownell Anthony 1820 – 1906 was a prominent American civil rights leader who played a pivotal role in the 19th century women's rights movement to introduce women's suffrage into the United States. She traveled the United States and Europe for 45 years, delivering 75 to 100 speeches per year on women's rights.

Learn more about Susan B. Anthony, her predecessors and her contemporaries through Accessible Archives' 19th century databases. In honor of Women's History Month we are offering special discounts through April 30th on the following database:

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or offensive materials, and decries what he sees as the **ALA's** absolutist position on the First Amendment.

In a later chapter, “A Mile Wide and a Mind-Numbing Inch Deep,” **Herring** offers that the Web as a modern repository is reflective of the cultural shift of today's “snap and grab” mentality, and that its short attention span and disregard for formality are having extremely harmful effects on the literacy of a rising generation. As a result, he argues that the historical record of our culture is being more truncated, and the only solution may be

getting more people to appreciate libraries' roles in preservation and access.

Herring espouses a point of view that is not uncommon in the debate about widespread perception of the Internet as a threat to the user base of libraries. This debate is not new, however it is ongoing. Regardless of the reader's ultimate assessment of the arguments presented in *Fool's Gold*, the work is valuable for inclusion in an academic library setting because the points **Herring** raises beg to be addressed.

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