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From the Reference Desk-Reviews of Reference Titles

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From the Reference Desk

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At times, reference publishing can be a risky business. A case in point is Garland's *Archaeology of Prehistoric Native America: An Encyclopedia* (1998, 081530725X; \$165). Editor **Guy Gibbons** and his contributors deserve credit for producing a serious, scholarly treatment of an important and interesting topic. Unfortunately, it is informed by a paradigm that has increasingly come in to question. This theory is what could be termed the Clovis-first orthodoxy. It is a view in which North America was first populated by bands of Siberian hunters who crossed an ice-free corridor into Alaska more than 11,500 years ago and spread south occupying the Great Plains and the Southwest. The theory is named after the town of Clovis, N.M., where distinctive stone projectile points were first discovered that link to similar sites in eastern Siberia and central Asia. But as a recent article that appeared in the November 9, 1999, Late Edition of *The New York Times* (Section F; Page 1; Column 1) points out "after years of stout resistance from many establishment archaeologists, the Clovis barrier had finally been breached." Discoveries at Monte Verde in Chile, the skull and bones of the Kennewick Man in Washington State and findings at the Topper site along the Savannah River in South Carolina open the possibility of coastal migration and origins other than Siberia. In short, these new discoveries have opened up the debate about the origins of the first Americans and this new information is not reflected in *Archaeology of Prehistoric Native America: An Encyclopedia*. It is a shame because the 750 alphabetically-arranged entries are written with the scholar and student in mind, and include useful bibliographies that list books, journal articles and scholarly papers. Even more interesting is the attempt to provide another level of organization by introducing the book with a thorough listing of

entries by culture area and topical category. More than being just a thematic index, this section interweaves both maps that locate major cultural areas, as well as individual archaeological sites, along with a series of chronological tables. There are also useful general articles that discuss climatic and environmental eras and phenomena like the Little Ice age and the Ice-free Corridor, as well as significant individuals ranging from **Franz Boas** to **John Wesley Powell** to **A.V. Kidder**. In addition, there are articles covering special topics like the use of fire, indigenous language, health and disease, and specific tool types, like flake and hammerstone. But unfortunately, given the current developments mentioned about, this book can not be recommended. An updated version that takes into consideration these new discoveries, and the resulting controversy, is needed and would be a major contribution.

Oxford University Press has released a new atlas that many libraries will want to consider. Edited by the British scholar **Ninian Smart**, *The Atlas of the World's Religions* (1999, 0195214498; \$95) offers both a narrative and a graphical view of the relationship between geography and the spread of world religions. Organized into ten sections, this atlas covers major religions like Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity and Buddhism, as well as the diverse traditions of the peoples of the Pacific, the Ancient Near East and Europe, East Asia, Africa and other indigenous groups. About half of the book is text offering historical analysis. The writing is factual and gives the reader a solid overview of each religion discussed. Of course, graphical depiction is the strength of any good atlas, and *The Atlas of the World's Religions* certainly measures up in this area. Nearly two hundred maps accompany numerous color photos to provide a vivid, visual representation of the relationship between religion and place. Additional features include a helpful glossary, a bibliography and an alphabetical index. A quick search in **Amazon.com** shows

that there are a number of biblical atlases like the *Macmillan Bible Atlas* by **Yohanan Aharoni** (1993, 0025006053; \$35) and the HarperCollins *Concise Atlas of the Bible* by **James B. Pritchard** (1997, 0062514997; \$25). There are even a few religion specific atlases like Prentice-Hall's *Cultural Atlas of Islam* by **Ismail Al Farugi** (1987, 0029101905; \$131) and Macmillan Library Reference's

Historical Atlas of Mormonism by **S. Kent Brown** (1994, 0130451479; \$83). But the *Atlas of the World's Religions* may be the only atlas in print that attempts to cover all the major world religions within the covers of a single book. The fact that it accomplished its mission, and does it well, makes it a necessary addition to most atlas collections.

Macmillan Reference USA has recently published a two-volume set that focuses on the study of human emotions. Offering more than just a psychological approach, the *Encyclopedia of Human Emotions* (1999, 0028647661; \$195) also blends the perspectives of sociology, biology, anthropology, medicine and the arts into an interdisciplinary treatment. There are a total of 146 articles that cover topics ranging from specific emotions like grief, infatuation and shame to conceptual and theoretical issues like creativity, emotional suppression and self-esteem. Other articles, like those on prejudice and propaganda, explore emotions as they relate to society and finally there are biographical sketches of influential thinkers ranging from **Aristotle** to **Karen Horney** and **William James** to **Charles Darwin**. The overall treatment is scholarly but accessible to the general reader. Related articles are linked by "see also" references and there are useful bibliographies after each article containing references to both books and journal articles. There is also an author index to these bibliographies as well as a general subject index. The uniqueness of this set is its interdisciplinary approach. As the editors note, the study of emotions is "guided by five general models": the psychoanalytic, the psychodynamic, the behavioral, the cognitive and the biological. The *Encyclopedia of Human Emotions* is informed by all of these models. Academic libraries will find that these two volumes nicely complement related titles like Academic Press' *Encyclopedia of Human Behavior* (1994, 0122269209; \$650) and Wiley's *Encyclopedia of Psychology* (1994, 0471558192; \$900).

Intended for high school students and public library patrons, the Gale Group's *Great America Court Cases* (1999, 0787629472; \$350) offers jargon-free overviews of nearly 800 prominent legal cases. The vast majority of cases included in this four-volume set are from the Supreme Court, only 60 cases are taken from state courts and other lower federal jurisdictions. One of the strengths of *Great America Court Cases* is its organization. Each volume centers on broad concepts

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that are then further divided into specific issues. Volume one deals with individual liberties focusing on cases that have impacted issues like privacy, libel, obscenity, Internet use and the basic freedoms of the press, religion, speech and assembly. The second volume on criminal justice highlights cases affecting issues like capital punishment, drug laws, search and seizure, the jury system and the rights of the accused. Equal protection and family law are covered in Volume three. Concerns like affirmative action, civil rights, gender discrimination, immigrants' rights, sexual harassment and voting rights are treated here. The fourth volume includes cases that have shaped both business and government activities. Hence a variety of issues are covered ranging from contract law to labor practices, national security to taxation, consumer protection to environmental law and judicial review to legislative powers. This grouping of cases into categories is very helpful and allows students to easily concentrate on a specific issue while examining different but related cases. Each case entry has a sidebar that provides basics like the case citation, the litigants, chief lawyers, judges, place and date of the decision, the decision itself and its significance. In addition, there is a 1-3 page narrative describing the case and its background and effects. A list of related cases and a brief bibliography are also included. Each volume has its own chronological and alphabetical list of the cases discussed, as well as a glossary and a cumulative index of the entire set. *Great America Court Cases* explains the impacts of major legal cases in understandable laymen's terms. It will be of most use to high school and public libraries where there is an audience for an understandable and easy to use reference on case law. Academic libraries may also benefit where there is a need for legal references that offer a starting point for further research.

Most libraries can always use another statistical source, especially when it helps students and scholars analyze an important issue. Oryx Press' *Statistical Handbook on Poverty in the Developing World* (1999, 1573562491; \$69.50) fits this description nicely. Organized into 12 sections, labeled A-L, the first section of statistics includes key indicators from over 190 countries as background and a source of comparison. But the remaining sections deal directly with a variety of key indicators that reflect only conditions in developing countries. The editors base their definition of "developing countries" on the **World Bank** classifications of low and middle income. (That translates into a per capita GNP ranging from \$785 or less, for the lowest income countries, to \$3116—\$9635 for those considered upper middle in-

come.) The statistics in these sections range from the purely economic like the GNP and the commodity price index to indications of government policy, like aid per capita, expenditure allocations and overall budget deficits. Other sections contain tables of statistics that underline the poverty reflected in these countries in terms of demographics and over population, AIDS and other health issues, nutrition and food supply, education, and urbanization. Two of the more sobering sections contain statistics specific to the conditions faced by women and children. In statistical sources like this, one can always point to figures that are not included. For instance, while the gross domestic product per capita is noted, there is no mention of per capita income. And, as is often the case with international statistics, available information is irregular, dated and incomplete. However, the editors have relied on data from recognized sources like the **World Bank**, **UNICEF**, the **World Health Organization** and the **UN Development Program**. Often statistical sources like *Statistical Handbook on Poverty in the Developing World* are works in progress. This first edition offers a good start, and hopefully, Oryx's plans call for improved and updated future editions.

Another statistical compilation worthy of consideration is Bernan Press', *Foreign Trade of the United States* (1999, 0890591601; \$65) edited by **Courtenay M. Slater** and **James B. Rice**. The tables presented in this volume are divided into five main parts: U.S. International Transaction Highlights, U.S. Foreign Trade in Services, U.S. Foreign Trade in Goods, State Exports of Goods and Metropolitan Area Exports. The first three parts provide information on the United States as a whole. Part A provides overall annual figures for GNP, imports and exports, trade in goods and services and exchange rates. Part B focuses on foreign trade in services which include transportation, and royalty and license receipts and payments, as well as those for other business, professional and technical services. The tables in Part C list annual aggregated figures for imports and exports in goods from 1970-1998. This part also provides import/export figures by industry, end use category and specific country. The remaining two parts provide statistics on state and metropolitan exports. Part D gives the reader statistics on individual state exports by destination and industry while the final part gives the same information for selected cities. The statistics in *Foreign Trade of the United States* are as reliable as these type of statistics can be, and come from a four agencies including the **Federal Reserve System**, the **Bureau of Economic Analysis**, the **Bureau of the Census** and the **International Monetary Fund**. A book full of statistical tables can be confusing. Luckily, the editors provide a clear table-of-contents and a useful

subject index that help locate specific information, while a "using this book" section explains the different parts, with examples from actual tables. Another useful feature is the explanation and description of the varying sources used. A section entitled "Notes and Definitions" acts like a bibliographic essay, identifying the sources used in the book, as well as providing definitions of the terms contained in the tables. However, it may have been more helpful to place such bibliographic information closer to the tables themselves. As is common with such publications, this information is available in other, scattered sources, both in print and on the Web. The value here is the convenience of having these statistics available in one well-organized volume. Libraries, both academic and public, needing a convenient source of foreign trade statistics that will answer some questions, and offer a starting place for others should consider its purchase.

A few years ago, McFarland published **Harris M. Lentz's** well received *Heads of States & Governments: A Worldwide Encyclopedia of over 2,300 leaders, 1945-1992*. (1994, 0899509266; \$95). This September McFarland released a companion volume, and upon close examination, it proves as helpful as Mr. Lentz's original effort. The *Encyclopedia of Heads of States & Governments, 1900-1945* (1999, 0786405007; \$75) is a handy compendium of biographical sketches that are not easily found, let alone in one place. True to its title, this encyclopedia provides the reader with biographies of close to 1,200 world leaders, from the beginning of the century to the end of the Second World War. Mr. Lentz arranges his book alphabetically by country, and because they are usually not the same people, provides separate sections for the Head of State and the Head of Government. Close to ninety countries "that had independent governments during the time covered" are included. The biographies are written in a straightforward style and read like a factual account of each leader's career. Basic information including birth and death dates, as well as the dates in power, are also noted. A helpful name index completes the book, and in the case of royalty, both given name and title are listed and cross-referenced. Public and academic libraries should give this book serious consideration.

ABC-CLIO has begun a new series of references entitled *Innovations in Science* that discuss recent advances in specific sciences using what one would call a "handbook approach." The title *Innovations in Astronomy* (1999, 1576071146; \$50) is a good example of what a reader can expect. The book starts with an overview chapter that sets the stage by covering major developments in as-

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addition, although the TRC was appointed by the Government of National Unity, it was never an instrument of the government as such, with power to implement its recommendations but constrained by the political need to appeal to voters or interest groups. Thus, while the Commission's "moral-ethical" approach has made a profound impact at the level of the national psyche, it may not be only Commissioner **Wynand Malan** who decides that he cannot stand by its practical recommendations. Significant redistribution of land and

economic power will probably take a very long time, leaving many of apartheid's second-class citizens feeling that, although they may know the truth now, there hasn't been much reconciliation.

Whatever the future brings, however, through their unflinching presentation of what happens when a technologically sophisticated nation barbarously legislates according to race, and in their insistence that knowing the truth about such atrocities can help bring about healing, these volumes represent not just a comprehensive history of twentieth-century South Africa but a triumph of the human spirit. No library should be without a copy.

Government Information Collections in the Networked Environment: New Issues and Models,
edited by **Joan F. Cheverie**. New York: Haworth Press
1998, 0789006804, \$39.95.

Review by **Debbie Vaughn**, Reference Librarian, College of Charleston <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

If the Internet and the World Wide Web have given people the gift of access, then Haworth Press' *Government Information Collections in the Networked Environment: New Issues and Models* (1998, 0789006804, \$39.95) is the key to access net-based government facts and figures. Editor **Joan Cheverie** of Georgetown University has collected nine to-the-point essays that address government information issues ranging from electronic dilemmas to user success to collection development partnerships.

Government Information Collections is superb from a theoretical standpoint—many of the articles present conceptual issues and how-we-did-it testimonials. Everyone can benefit from this genre of writing; it is how we as information professionals share ideas and learn from one

another. *Government Information Collections* shares a wealth of information. **Jim Gillispie** from Johns Hopkins University offers excellent advice about adapting to government collections in the networked environment and hones in on four crucial considerations: equipment and software, staff expertise, user instruction, and data preservation. In another article, **John Shuler** and **Jack Sulzer** (University of Illinois at Chicago and Pennsylvania State University, respectively) take a fascinating look at how our country's recent passion for information/technology mirrors a shift in our social climate. They prophetically point out that librarians will not only have to cope with the shift in terms of government documents onto the World Wide Web, but they must acclimate to the entire social shift.

Aptly stated, this shift will "demand a new form of cooperation among librarians, citizens, governments, and other organized community interests as well." Hailing from the University of Virginia, **Patrick Yott** expertly sums up the pleasures and the pains that we embrace as more and more government information becomes Internet-accessible. Representing the Colorado State-wide Network, **Janet Carabell**, **Susan Fayad**, and **Sandi Parker** explain resource and responsibility sharing. Their article examines collection development issues as well as technical factors.

The volatile nature of the Internet and the World Wide Web ensures that things—such as content, accessibility, format, and organization—are changing. It is for this very reason that some of the pieces in Cheverie's collection are more relevant than others. **Susan Calcari** and **Amy Tracy Wells** of the Internet Scout Project (<http://scout.cs.wisc.edu>) impart a brief glance at their mission to selectively disseminate electronic information, a good portion of which is government information. Although much of the content included in the Scout Project and its subsidiary the Scout Report remains the same, the format has changed drastically in the last eight months. Since the publication of *Government Information Collections*, even the information categories have been altered. These changes only serve to enhance the Scout Project, yet they diminish the helpfulness of Calcari and Wells' article. Unfortunately, this is true of any article in Cheverie's collection that makes specific reference to any of the aforementioned things—content, accessibility, format, or organization of networked government information. The good news is that

while things do change, they always seem to change for the better, and that "better" marks an improvement in technology and user-friendliness. And fortunately, even though the organization of a government information Web site might change, at least the Web address is not likely to do so.

One warning: *Government Information Collections* was co-published simultaneously as *Collection Management*, volume 23, number 3, 1998. Make sure you do not duplicate your holdings! If you do not already subscribe to *Collection Management*, or if you'd like to offer circulating material about government sources, then *Government Information Collections* is ideal for your library—be it a public, academic, or special institution. Since the essays in Cheverie's monograph focus on a variety of topics that address all angles of digital government documents collections, any library can gain insight from reading and/or circulating this book. *Government Information Collections* is especially handy for small libraries that are not government document depositories or for those that are only partial-depository libraries.

We are all facing the advantages and challenges of electronic environments; specifically, we are all trying to keep up with Web-based resources. The beguiling spirit and speed of networked data is attractive to all of us in the information business, but that spirit and speed comes with a price; we have to know how to make the network work in order for those character traits to shine. *Government Information Collections* is a must-have for any institution that has an interest in gaining a conceptual understanding of the electronic government network and all of its magnificent presence. 🌳

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tronomy over the last century. This is followed by chronology of specific events listed by year, and then by a short chapter of biographical sketches of 28 influential astronomers. The next three chapters offer pointers to additional information. The first is a directory of organizations, observatories and facilities containing descriptions, addresses, phone and fax numbers, as well as e-mail and Web addresses. The second is a brief, but selective and annotated bibliography, and the third is a list of useful Web sites, which

is also annotated. The last chapter is the biggest and takes up more than half of the volume's 284 pages of text. It consists of a dictionary of nearly 600 terms and concepts that relate to astronomy. *Innovations in Astronomy* is intended for the non-specialist and beginning student. As such, it is an interesting and useful introduction to contemporary astronomy, and should find a home in high school and public libraries where there is interest. Academic libraries where there is need might want a copy in circulation. *Innovations in Biology* (1999, 1576071162; \$50) and *Innovations in Earth Science* (1999, 1576071154; \$50) are the other two volumes in the series thus far. 🌳