September 2004

From the Reference Desk

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Recommended Citation

Gilson, Thomas (2004) "From the Reference Desk," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 16: Iss. 4, Article 26.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4407>

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the consortial purchasing arena that have been well covered in the literature. The general principle is that larger buying groups have more influence in terms of lower unit cost (however it's measured) as well as better terms and conditions. In times of tight budgets this is crucial. Of course some of the obvious drawbacks are that consortial purchasing often takes longer, is more difficult, there is overlapping consortia activity and it takes someone to do it.

Database providers have mixed feelings about consortial purchasing. Most put up with it as there is no choice. Some consortial deals offer a central point of billing. But vendors still often have to court individual libraries to keep them in group deals and technical support is still usually directly between the provider and the end library.

One of the new strategies for cutting costs is for libraries to pay closer attention to what they are actually purchasing. In other words "buy smarter." For example, many aggregators offer overlapping content both in their own product lines as well as when compared with other aggregators. Our **Gold Rush** project (<http://grweb.coalliance.org>) at the **Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries** offers tools to compare content between these services to make smarter purchasing decisions. **Serials Solutions** has also recently released functionality in this area.

ATG: Open access means different things to different people. What is your take on the open access movement? Is it viable only in the sciences, or does it have possibilities in the social sciences or humanities?

GM: In my view open access publishing simply means any content that is published at no charge to the end-user on the Web. The subject area is irrelevant from my perspective except that I realize that the open access movement has been largely driven by the STM journals because of their high prices. Some try and make more refined definitions such as that the resource must be peer reviewed. This, in my opinion, is more a measure of possible quality or authority. Using my definition, most government documents have been "open access" all along.

As a librarian, like many others, I support the open access movement but publishing does cost money and someone needs to pay somewhere or it will not happen. I'm not against the traditional publishing system I just think that some publishers gouge the library market and have high profit margins.

There are several bills in the U.S. Congress that are addressing the issue of government-funded research. If government funding is used, arguably the published results of that research should be made freely available in an open access source. Unless traditional publishers can accommodate this nuance with some free and some fee-based articles, open access initiatives like **PubMed** may be playing a greater role in their respective areas.

ATG: In discussing technological change Bill Gates has been quoted as saying "if the

past 20 years have been impressive, the next 20 will be astounding?" If he is right, how will database publishers and libraries keep up with the accelerating growth of information?

GM: Bill Gates is certainly correct as more and more content goes digital. Higher resolution, better contrast, lower cost display devices will certainly make reading material online the standard. Few want to read large amounts of text on a screen with today's technology but when the reader has a look and feel more like paper, things will change.

There are so many possibilities that are very obvious and already possible now in various forms. For example, one could choose to have the textual content turned into audio (great for the visually impaired or those with reading disabilities), full multi-media, downloading through satellite or cell-phone type technology, checking-out and downloading digital content from your library or purchasing from a bookstore, interaction between various existing digital devices (**Blue Tooth** type technology), and the list goes on.

Libraries will still play a key role, unless we drop the ball or legal changes hurt us, because it still costs money to create content. The library should be able to purchase and distribute digital content but there will need to be proper authentication and control techniques in place to protect authors and publishers.

ATG: What new technological developments will impact libraries and database developers most in the next year? In the next five years?

GM: Within the next year, most librarians are talking about things such as improved precision in full-text linking with link resolvers, growing use of **RFID** (radio frequency identification) in library applications and better management of electronic subscriptions through electronic resource management (**ERM**) systems.

Within five years, high resolution, high contrast, low weight and low cost ubiquitous display devices will be the most important development. This will be necessary to begin to allow wide scale distribution of digital content. Users have to like it as much or more than paper to switch from paper books and magazines. I think it will happen; it's just a matter of when.

ATG: What can we expect during the next couple of years from the Charleston Advisor. Can you give us a preview of the type products you will be looking to review? Are there any new features under consideration?

GM: *The Charleston Advisor* does structured in-depth peer-reviewed reviews of Web-based resources of interest to libraries. As more and more content goes digital, *TCA* will have an increasingly important role in vetting digital resources to help libraries make better decisions on what to purchase.

We will continue our role in covering something of interest to everyone but we may be doing more thematic issues with hot topics as they arise. We do need to keep re-assessing what are the key elements in a review as times keep changing. For example,

when the publication started in 1999, OpenURL link resolution did not even exist so it was not an issue to be considered, whereas now knowing that a resource is OpenURL enabled as either a source or target is crucial.

ATG: That's about all the questions we have. Is there anything else that you would like to add?

GM: We are always in need of experienced reviewers for *The Charleston Advisor* and I would very much like to be contacted by those who would like to do reviews.

ATG: That's great we're sure that there will be some folks who will take you up on that. Thanks for taking the time to talk with us.

GM: It was my pleasure.

From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Robert Scott Small Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) <gilsont@cofc.edu>

As gas prices hover at all time highs, debate sharpens about the use of energy resources. The production and use of energy has multi-dimensional impacts. It enables us to meet basic needs like warming our homes and driving to work in the morning, and it is essential to industrial and economic growth. But energy use and production also causes damaging environmental side effects. Obviously, this is a complicated and controversial topic. Luckily the reference literature continues to grow in this area.

Elsevier Academic Press has just published a six-volume *Encyclopedia of Energy* (2004, 012176480X, \$1560) edited by **Cutler J. Cleveland**, Director of the **Center for Energy and Environmental Studies** at **Boston University**. **Dr. Cleveland** has assembled over 350 international scholars in an attempt to provide comprehensive coverage in some 400 articles. Reading through the introduction, one gets a sense of the scope of their challenge. **Dr. Cleveland**

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and his associate editors divide the field into "20 distinct subject areas," and then organize the individual articles within these areas. The subject areas range from the basics of energy to conservation, from economics to environmental issues, and from public policy to material use and reuse. They also cover specific energy types and sources like electricity, coal, oil and natural gas, nuclear power and renewable and alternatives sources. In addition, there are articles focused on more broadly defined topics like systems of energy, global issues, energy flows, sustainable development, society and energy, as well as the inherent risks involved in energy use and production. Fortunately a listing of "contents by subject area" is provided, gathering related articles and giving the reader an awareness of overall coverage. The individual articles are well organized and subdivided into specific sections. They also include a glossary of terms and useful bibliographies with references to books, journals, and government reports and Websites. The articles are enhanced with drawings, photos, diagrams, maps, graphs, formulas, charts, and tables. The writing can be technical but with the help of the glossaries is accessible to the undergraduate science student. Added features include a chronology, a list of international energy data organizations and their Web addresses, selected energy related tables, and a general index.

Not as highly technical as Wiley's *Encyclopedia of Energy Technology and the Environment* (1995, 0471544582, \$995), the scope here is wider and thus may find a broader audience. The *Encyclopedia of Energy* will appeal to students and scholars as well as professional researchers. But they are only part of the intended readership. Government officials responsible for policy, energy and environmental consultants and those working in the energy business will also welcome the information provided in this set. Both academic and special libraries will want to take a serious look at this work.

The *Encyclopedia of the Romantic Era 1760-1850* (2004, 157958361X, \$325) published by **Fitzroy Dearborn** packs a lot into two volumes. Not only does it expand the time frame of the earlier **Garland**

Encyclopedia of Romanticism 1780's-1830's, this work broadens the main focus on Great Britain and gives added attention to Europe and the Americas. The **Fitzroy Dearborn** reference also offers nearly double the number of entries with some 770 articles divided into four basic types. Setting the table, so to speak, are the national and regional survey articles. These entries trace the development of the Romantic era in the most obvious places like France, Germany and Great Britain, as well as in the more obscure like the Balkans, the Caribbean, and the Ukraine. These survey essays offer a backdrop for the other, more pointed articles, the most numerous of which are biographies. Included in these are cultural figures like writers, painters, architects, sculptors, and composers, as well as political thinkers and other intellectuals. A third group of essays discusses individual works from **Beethoven's** opera *Fidelio* to the *Essays* of **Ralph Waldo Emerson** and from **Goya's** painting *The Third of May 1808* to the ballet *Giselle*. The remaining articles are those that deal with concepts, themes and events as diverse as the American and French Revolutions, transcendentalism, gender, the unconscious, childhood, and the Noble Savage. Each article has a useful bibliography and the biographical entries also include a list of selected works. The writing is straightforward but authoritative, appealing to both scholar and informed lay reader. All articles are signed and there is a list of contributors with their institutional affiliation.

This set is organized with ease of use as a primary consideration. While the entries are alphabetical there is both a list of articles by broad subject, as well as by nation and region, that in turn is subcategorized by areas that can range from architecture to science. The general index offers thorough access to specifics. For example, looking under the name of a writer leads to information about the individual, as well as page references to his/her works.

Fitzroy Dearborn garnered one of its six spots on the RUSA list of 2004's Outstanding Reference works with the *Encyclopedia of the Romantic Era 1760-1850*. It is well deserved. (See the full list in the sidebar on p.72.) Students and scholars of the Romanticism will revel in the wealth of information in these two volumes. Conceptually well grounded and full of rich content, it is an obvious choice for academic libraries. Larger public libraries where there is interest should also take note.

Published by **Sage Publications**, The *Encyclopedia of Leadership* (2004, 076192597X, \$595) is one of those works that fulfills one of the most useful roles of a subject encyclopedia. It helps define an emerging discipline and connects it to related fields. According to the editors, there are close to 1000 leadership "programs at U.S. postsecondary insti-

tutions," which is double the number a mere six years ago. In a sense, this encyclopedia is a response, as well as a natural outgrowth of this increase. Borrowing heavily from philosophy, sociology, anthropology, political science and psychology, it attempts to outline the forces and relationships that foster, as well as mediate leadership. By synthesizing such disparate perspectives on the topic, the *Encyclopedia* helps lend clarity and definition to the concept and meaning of leadership.

Part of that clarity and definition arises from essays that discuss characteristics of leadership like charisma, optimism, resiliency and risk taking, as well as from entries that cover situational factors like communication, competition and group processes. It also comes in articles on leadership styles

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from shared to autocratic leadership and from innovative leadership to leading from a distance. In addition, the editors use a number of biographies to illustrate various components of leadership. The encyclopedia offers examples as diverse as **Gandhi** and **Churchill**, **Genghis Khan** and **Mother Teresa**, and **Vince Lombardi** and **Mao Zedong**. There are also articles that elaborate on a variety of leadership theories ranging from constructivism to integrative theory and from qualitative methods to path-goal analysis. Additional coverage includes entries that offer case studies drawn from business, the military, politics and social movements, as well as those that relate specifically to women and gender in leadership.

However, there are some interesting editorial choices. For example, there is a full article on **Coco**
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Simon are barely mentioned. Biographical sketches are limited to actual leaders and while they are referred to in other articles, theorists ranging from Max Weber to Mary Parker Follett to Peter Drucker arguably deserve individual, if brief, entries. Of course, there will always be such quibbles in an encyclopedia covering a subject of this complexity.

The writing is informed by recent scholarship but uncluttered and accessible. Each article has its own bibliography, a number of which are substantial. The four volumes are well organized and include a classified subject guide and "see" and "see also" references linking related entries. Effective use is made of sidebars of book excerpts, speeches, historic documents, news service articles, as well as other sources. Other value added features include a bibliography of significant books on leadership and a directory of 250 active (as of Oct. 2003) leadership programs. In addition, there are two appendices of primary sources, one of Presidential speeches on foreign policy and war, the other, containing excerpts from sacred texts illustrating the "role of key leaders and leadership concepts within each religion." The general index is helpful and easy to use.

The *Encyclopedia of Leadership* is a uniquely valuable reference work assembled under a respected editorial group with an impressive list of contributors. Focused on leadership but with relevant cross-disciplinary content, it will prove useful to a large audience. The *Encyclopedia* will be of particular interest to libraries supporting academic programs in leadership. However, given the growing interest in, and importance of the topic in diverse fields like business and politics, other libraries both academic and public will want it on their shelves. It should not be confused with McGraw-Hill's one volume, *Encyclopedia of Leadership* (2001, 0071363084, \$99.95), which is really a practical handbook and guide.

According to its editor A. S. Goudie, the *Encyclopedia of Geomorphology* (2004, 041527298X, \$395) is the first encyclopedia dedicated to the field since Rhodes W. Fairbridge's 1968 encyclopedia. Fairbridge's work, one of the earlier volumes of Van Nostrand Reinhold's *Encyclopedia of Earth Sciences Series*, was in obvious need of updating and this new two-volume encyclopedia does an admirable job. Published by Routledge in cooperation with the International Association of Geomorphologists, this work contains almost 700 articles by contributors from 30 countries. Concentrating on the origins of landforms and the earth's other natural features, the *Encyclopedia* also reveals the processes that influence their evolution and current existence. Entries range from two paragraph definitions to multi-page articles. The topics covered discuss the effects of glacial, coastal, aeolian (wind), karst (high rock solubility), fluvial (river and stream), and tectonic/volcanic processes, as well as weathering and other ecological factors. There are also articles on resulting structural formations, soil types and other natural materials, as well as on the concepts and techniques employed in the study of geomorphology.

The *Encyclopedia of Geomorphology* offers a scholarly and authoritative starting place for students interested in this fascinating branch of geology. It will also be welcomed by faculty and professionals in the field and serve them as a reference for facts, definitions and background. It is deserving of a place in most academic science reference collections as an individual title, as well as an enhancement to broader works like Garland's *Sciences of the Earth* (1998, 081530062X \$250) and Gale's *Encyclopedia of Earth Science* (1996, 0028971140, used and new from \$49).

One might ask if there is a need for another reference work on American Literature. Jay Parini, editor of the *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature* (2004 0195156536, \$450), would obviously say yes. And given the diverse purposes and differing audience for such works, he could well be justified. While there are a number of resources treating individual authors or reprinting excerpts of literary criticism, and even other encyclopedias, a well rounded, comprehensive, scholarly reference like this is welcome.

The *Oxford Encyclopedia* offers 350 articles covering most of the significant writers, literary genres and major themes that make up American

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RUSA SIDEBAR

*The Reference Sources Committee of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) list of Outstanding Reference Sources for small and medium-sized libraries:

Advertising Age Encyclopedia of Advertising, edited by John McDonough and Karen Egolf. 3 volumes. New York: Fitzroy-Dearborn, 2002. (ISBN 1-57958-172-2) 1,873 pages, \$385.00

The Beat Generation: A Gale Critical Companion, edited by Lynn M. Zott. 3 volumes. Detroit: Gale, 2003. (ISBN 0-7876-7569-5) 1622 pages, \$350.00.

The Encyclopedia of American Folk Art, edited by Gerard C. Wertkin. New York: Routledge, 2004. (ISBN 0-415-92986-5) 704 pages, \$125.00.

Encyclopedia of American History, edited by Gary B. Nash. 11 volumes. New York: Facts on File, 2003. (ISBN 0-8160-4371-X) 4,686 pages, \$935.00.

Encyclopedia of Community, edited by Karen Christensen and David Levinson. 4 volumes. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2003. (ISBN: 0-7619-2598-8) 2,000 pages, \$595.00.

The Encyclopedia of Education, 2nd ed. edited by James W. Guthrie. 8 volumes. New York: Macmillan Reference, 2003. (ISBN 0-02-865594-X) 3,357 pages, \$850.00.

Encyclopedia of Food and Culture, edited by Solomon H. Katz and William Woys Weaver. 3 volumes. New York: Scribner, 2003. (ISBN 0-684-80568-5) 2,035 pages, \$395.00.

Encyclopedia of Radio, edited by Christopher H. Sterling. 3 volumes. New York: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2004. (ISBN 1-57958-249-4) 1,920 pages, \$375.00.

Encyclopedia of Russian History, edited by Jim Millar. New York: Macmillan Reference, 2003. (ISBN 0-02-865693-8) 1,828 pages, \$475.00.

The Encyclopedia of Sculpture, edited by Antonia Bostrom. 3 volumes. New York: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2004. (ISBN 1-57958-248-6) 1,921 pages, \$375.00.

Encyclopedia of Terrorism, by Harvey W. Kushner. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2003. (ISBN: 0-7619-2408-6) 523 pages, \$125.00.

Encyclopedia of the Romantic Era, 1760-1850, edited by Christopher John Murray. 2 volumes. New York: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2004. (ISBN 1-57958-361-X) 1,277 pages,

Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia, 2nd ed. edited by Michael Hutchins. 17 volumes. Detroit: Gale, 2003. (ISBN 0-7876-5362-4) 9,609 pages, \$1,595.00.

Handbook of Death & Dying, edited by Clifton D. Bryant. 2 volumes. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2003. (ISBN 0-7619-2514-7) 1,100 pages, \$350.00.

Holocaust Literature: An Encyclopedia of Writers and Their Work, edited by S. Lillian Kremer. 2 volumes. New York: Routledge, 2003. (ISBN 0-415-92985-7) 1,499 pages, \$250.00.

Literature of Travel and Exploration: An Encyclopedia, edited by Jennifer Speake. 3 volumes. New York: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2003. (ISBN 1-57958-247-8) 1,479 pages, \$375.00.

Magill's Encyclopedia of Social Science: Psychology, edited by Nancy A. Piotrowski. 4 volumes. Hackensack, N.J.: Salem, 2003. (ISBN: 1-58765-130-0) 2,000 pages, \$385.00.

The Oxford Dictionary of the Renaissance, by Gordon Campbell. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. (ISBN 0-19-860175-1) 862 pages, \$150.00.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History, edited by Joel Mokyr. 5 volumes. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. (ISBN 0-19-510507-9) 2,800 pages, \$695.00.

Reader's Guide to British History, edited by David Loades. 2 volumes. New York: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2003. (ISBN 1-57958-242-7) 1,620 pages, \$295.00.

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literature. A predominant number of articles (250) cover individual authors. However, this four volume-set is more than a collection of essays on the most prominent and influential writers from Colonial times to the present. It also contains numerous survey treatments ranging from literary theory in America to little magazines and from Italian American literature to the West Coast School and from gay literature to Vietnam in prose and poetry. In addition, there are analytical articles on fifty influential American literary master works. The author articles all have a list of works, and each of the entries has a further readings list, many with brief annotations. The last volume contains a topical outline of articles, as well as a well-designed and thorough general index. Over one hundred and fifty scholars contributed to the set and are listed. However, as is practiced in other reference sets, the contributor list, while giving affiliation, does not offer more specific qualifications. From this reviewer's vantage point, such qualifications are relevant and whenever possible should be included.

Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature will find a large readership. Academic, public and some larger high school libraries will be interested. Even libraries that have invested in **Fact on File's** well-received *Encyclopedia of American Literature* (2002, 0816041210, \$225) will want to consider it. In some ways they compliment each other. The **Oxford** publication provides more in-depth scholarly discussions, while the **Facts on File** set offers a chronological arrangement with shorter, but more numerous entries, and broader, less concentrated coverage. It might also appeal to branches and smaller libraries without the space or the budget for **Scribner's** ever growing and somewhat unwieldy *American Writers* series, which is also edited by **Parini**.

Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

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

Column Editor's Note: On the first Monday in September as our country celebrates Labor Day, many of us might be unaware of the historical climate surrounding the first Labor Day festivities. In 1882, numerous citizens stormed the streets of New York City, rallying for a limited work day. Even years after Labor

Day became a national holiday, various groups of workers still were forced to toil under unfair and unequal conditions.

ATG veteran reviewer **Phillip Powell** takes a look at inequalities such as this in *A Place at the Table: Struggles for Equality in America*. Happy reading, everyone! — DV

A Place at the Table: Struggles for Equality in America.

Fleming, Maria, Ed. New York: Oxford University Press in Association with the Southern Poverty Law Center, 2001. 0195150368. 151 pages. \$28.00.

Reviewed by **Phillip Powell** (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston) <powellp@cofc.edu>

Over the last decade or so, numerous books titled *A Place at the Table* have been published. Even though the subject matter varies from one book to the other, they all appear to discuss the need for inclusiveness and diversity in today's society. As this country wrestles with prejudices,

old and new, these books provide a balance to much of the invective one hears in the media. A brief scan of **World Cat** reveals books with this title covering such important issues as abused children, poverty, homelessness, gay rights, women's rights, and community building.

This particular *Place at the Table* covers a broad range of inequalities occurring throughout
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