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From the Reference Desk

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Op Ed
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formula the fact that we are spending a considerable amount of money for eBooks, such as the *Oxford Scholarship Online* and *The History E-Book Project*, out of our electronic resources budget?

Given the difficulties of allocating funds for books, periodicals and electronic resources when this division by format no longer reflects a division by function, must we abandon something as useful as the book budget allocation formula? How can we make informed decisions about the equitable division of our funds to pay for books, periodicals and electronic resources without allowing this division by format result in unwanted overlap and duplication of effort and resources? Is it not possible, for instance, to create a new formula that would guide us not only in making allocations of money for books, but to judge how well our division of funds is in accord with the needs of our users?

I put these statements as questions for the simple reason that I could no more create such a formula than I could create the code for the **Excel** sheet that holds it. Other more experienced collection development librarians have doubtless thought about this problem and come to some interesting conclusions, and it would be very useful to know more about how they are dealing with this issue. 🐼

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) <gilsont@cofc.edu>

ABC-CLIO recently published a set that will be eagerly received by a wide audience of both students and scholars. The *Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War: a Political, Social, and Military History* (2006, 1851094083, \$485) is the first major, multivolume work that focuses on the American Revolution in a number of years. Naturally, the encyclopedia covers the war's numerous personalities and battles, but these five volumes also draw attention to the political and social backdrop of the revolutionary era, as well as the international stage on which the war played out.

The set is introduced by two essays that separately discuss the "origins" and "military operations" of the war. Taken together these essays offer a strong foundation for the articles that follow. The first four volumes of the set contain more than 1,000 articles, the majority of which discuss minor military actions and major campaigns or offer biographical sketches of both well known and lesser personalities. However, there are also entries that cover issues ranging from art and music to diplomacy and trade, as well as articles discussing Native Americans, ethnic groups and the role of women. In addition, there are articles that show the impacts of the war on the individual colonies, as well as foreign nations, along with entries that discuss important legal documents and political actions. A major added feature is volume five which is entirely devoted to 154 primary sources documents.

The set is attractive and well illustrated. Each volume has eight general maps that represent the larger fields of military operation while there are nearly 50 more maps scattered throughout the alphabetical entries depicting major engagements. Numerous black and white portraits and art reproductions provide added visual "spice" to the text. There is also extensive use of "see also" references and each entry has a list of useful, further readings.

The *Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War: A Political, Social, and Military History* is thoughtfully edited, informed by recent scholarship, and more comprehensive than earlier works like **Garland's** *American Revolution 1775-1783: An Encyclopedia* (1993, 082405623X, \$270) or the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of the American Revolution* (1991, 0631163220, \$40). While these earlier works are still useful, this new encyclopedia is destined to become the standard reference on the American Revolution. Most academic libraries and many larger public libraries will want it in their collections. High school libraries will want to give serious consideration to the student edition of this work entitled *American Revolutionary War: A Student Encyclopedia* (2007, 1851098399, \$485). As is true with other **ABC-CLIO** reference works, these sets are also available in eBooks versions. For more information check out <http://www.abc-clio.com/products/overview.aspx?productid=108841&from=academic>.

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The *Encyclopedia of Governance* (2007, 9781412905794, \$325) offers a wide ranging approach to the theories and practice of governance. Published by Sage, this two volume reference is not limited to coverage of topics related to formal government by the state. It discusses the "conduct of governing," as well as the "institutions of government" in a broader, more flexible context. The articles in this set echo the growing role of markets, networks and outside organizations in delivering services and setting the parameters of governance.

Of course, there are entries that touch on issues and methods related to traditional areas of concern like public administration, public sector management, policy analysis, decision making and the political process. But there are also discussions of more abstract ideas related to the theories and sociology of governance, as well as coverage of specific topics within areas of concern like development, international organization and citizenship. In addition, there are numerous entries that help define various forms of governance ranging from corporate to environmental and from global to local.

Intended for an academic audience, the *Encyclopedia* is thoroughly grounded in recent scholarship. Both the content and straightforward writing will appeal to student and scholar. The 550 articles in the encyclopedia are arranged alphabetically but there is a useful Reader's Guide that groups related entries, as well as a good, comprehensive index that is reproduced in both volumes. It is text laden with few illustrations but the layout and font size make it easy to read.

Editor **Mark Bevir** and his contributors successfully reflect the modern evolution of governance from being based on state, bureaucratic hierarchies and rules to being a more interactive, adaptable process that stretches beyond the formal state. In this regard the *Encyclopedia of Governance* is a unique contribution that serves to complement other respected sources like **Marcel Dekker's** *Encyclopedia of Public Administration and Public Policy* edited by **Jack Rabin** (available online and in print — for pricing contact <e-reference@taylorand-

francis.com>). In short, the *Encyclopedia of Governance* deserves definite consideration from academic libraries with serious political science and government collections.

(Smaller libraries needing a less comprehensive treatment might consider the *International Dictionary of Public Management and Governance* (2006, 0765612615, \$149.95) by **Gambhir Bhatta**, published by **M.E.Sharpe**.)

With the *Encyclopedia of Erotic Literature* (2006, 1579584411, \$350) **Routledge** has published a serious, scholarly work that focuses on an absorbing topic that has been neglected in the reference literature. Edited by **Gaetan Brulotte** and **John Phillips**, these two volumes contain more than 500 signed articles authored by some 400 contributors. The essays range from shorter entries of 1,000 words to expansive articles of 8,000 words. While the arrangement is alphabetical, the editors divide the articles into four broad categories; historical overviews, topics and themes, literary surveys and writers and works. And to reinforce and supplement this overall "conceptual framework," they provide a thematic table of contents that gives the reader additional breakdowns by country and language. While a good deal of the content in this set centers on Western erotic literature, a quick examination of the entries points to the fact that erotica is a form of literary expression for nearly all cultures, modern and ancient. A number of articles focus on Chinese, Indian, African, Japanese, Latin American, and Arabic and Persian erotic literature. The *Encyclopedia* also covers a diversity of themes ranging from anticlericalism to aphrodisiacs and from taboos to transvestism. As you would expect, numerous entries concentrate on individual writers. These articles discuss the important works of the author, as well as offer "capsule biographies" and lists of other selected writings. Overall, the articles in this set are impressive. They are thoughtful and well researched and a number having substantial bibliographies.

The *Encyclopedia of Erotic Literature* merits addition to serious literature collections. It provides information on specific topics, as well as conveys the fact that erotic literature spans multiple cultures and eras. With this work, editors **Brulotte** and **Phillips** provide a rich and necessary academic reference for interested students and scholars.

In January, the **Berkshire Publishing Group** released another unique and revealing reference work. *Global Perspectives on the United States: A Nation by Nation Survey* (2007, 9781933782065, \$275) takes a look at American foreign relations from the perspective of the other countries involved in the equation. Included are viewpoints from 140 nations and regions with entries that range alphabetically from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. As you can imagine, the opinions expressed throughout the surveys

are diverse and range from praise to disappointment to condemnation. Regardless, each is informative, often providing views of America that most of us are only dimly unaware of.

Broadly speaking, each entry consists of a section on the history of relations with the US and one covering the perspective on the United States held by that country. There is also a statistical snapshot of the country in each entry. Many of the entries are divided into sub-categories in one, or both of the two main sections. For example, the entry on People's Republic of China subdivides the Perspective on the United States into the "Major Events" and "Major Issues" influencing the perspective, as well as offering a section on the "Popular Perspectives" held by ordinary Chinese. The entry also contains sidebars ranging from an excerpt of a letter from a Chinese visitor to New York in 1904 to an extract from the **PBS's Frontline** Website reporting on China's perspective on the 2004 election. In addition, there is a list of further readings that includes 18 sources. In fact, each entry has a bibliography of varying lengths, but usually containing at least 10-15 citations. While the entries are listed alphabetically, there is a helpful general index and a chronology of key events influencing global perspectives.

Edited by **David Levinson** and **Karen Christensen**, *Global Perspectives on the United States* provides a picture of America that is both revealing and troubling. It is one that, until now, had not been presented in such a thorough and sweeping fashion. The editors note in their introduction the intention of demonstrating "the complications and contradictions" of the outside world's view of America. In this they have succeeded admirably. Most academic libraries will want to add it to their collections, as will a number of larger public libraries.

(According to the publisher, a companion third volume (9781933782072, \$150) is set to be released in May and will provide "over 100 expert-written essays on the events, developments, and processes that shape global perspectives on the United States.")

Greenwood Press' Social Dancing in America: a History and Reference (2007, 03133756X, \$149) is a fascinating, as well as serious approach to an important but somewhat neglected area of popular culture. Author **Ralph G. Giordano** describes social dances from the Minuet to the Mash Potatoes with an informed appreciation of each individual dance. But he also sheds light on the social and cultural importance of dancing in the life of America. While popular fads from dance marathons to disco are discussed, attention is also paid to the political and religious context of social dancing. For instance, there is coverage of dances and events as diverse as the Ghost Dance of the American Indian that played a role in the massacre at Wounded Knee; the closing of the Savoy Club in Harlem due to fear of "race mixing;" and concerns about declining morality as evidenced by the 1960's dance craze, the Twist.

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French subscribed to every newspaper in the U.S. Their research has become even easier with the introduction of online databases, Web searching, and blogs. It is pretty hard to hide a public performance these days, so it is better to ask for permission than to be sued for copyright violation.

How to Obtain a License for Public Performance

Many libraries and bookstores are familiar with the **Copyright Clearance Center (CCC)**¹⁰ because of reserves and course packs. The CCC also deals with requests to include copyrighted material in other published works. However, the CCC does not deal with public performance rights. Their sole interest is the right of reproduction. If you are interested in public performance, however, you would need to contact one of the performance rights agencies that specialize in this area. Some of the major agencies include:

- **The American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)**.¹¹ ASCAP handles the rights to music from over 200,000 U.S. composers, songwriters, lyricists, and music publishers. In addition, ASCAP can help obtain the rights to music from other countries through agreements with other agencies.

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Social Dancing in America: a History and Reference consists of 2 volumes. Volume 1 covers developments during the 17th, 18th, and the 19th Centuries while Volume 2 focused on the 20th century. The volumes are arranged in chapters following a chronological order. There is no alphabetical arrangement of articles so a solid general index is a necessity and fortunately both volumes have their own useful index. In fact, each volume is self contained and can stand by itself, however for reference purposes they work best as a set. Written in a straightforward and reader friendly style, **Giordano's** work is nonetheless based on serious scholarship. His bibliographies are rich and varied including both primary and secondary sources, and as with the indexes, each volume has its own list of resources. Volume 1 also has a bibliography of dance instruction manuals available from the Library of Congress and Volume 2 has a select list of Hollywood movies by type of dance.

This work is one of those reference titles that will be at home on the circulation shelf, as well as in a reference collection. Some readers will want to check it out for extended use while other will want to cherry pick for helpful facts. Either way, both academic and public libraries will want to give it serious consideration for addition to their collections. 🌿

The Devil Is In The Details from page 65

technology well and depend on it. So when a Website comes down or there is any equipment malfunction, or weather-related or other crisis that interferes, I am not a happy camper.

Despite ergonomically sound equipment and furniture, I have some carpal tunnel problems and my eyes are strained after long times spent online. **Isadore Rosenfeld, M.D.**, the renowned cardiologist, advised recently about the importance of getting up from one's computer every half hour or so to stretch one's legs and move about in order to prevent the formation of embolisms, which can be life threatening. When I sit before a computer screen, I may rarely move anything but my fingers for hours.

Print and online publications serve different purposes. One does not necessarily obfuscate the need for the other.

I worry about the zealous drive to think digital all the time.

The quest for knowledge will best be served by both print and online publications. To believe that one will replace the other is unwise as well as unrealistic.

Academic librarians have to think more about balance over bias, take a deep breath, and step away from the Online-Only bully pulpit. Take some time away from the computer and pick up a good magazine. Maybe we'll see one another at a **Borders Café**. 🌿