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From the Reference Desk

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From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Associate Editor, *Against the Grain*, and Head of Reference Emeritus, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29401) <gilson@cofc.edu>

The *Encyclopedia of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* (2010, 978-1588266866, \$395) is a three-volume set that treats an issue central to today's world politics. Published by **Lynne Rienner** and edited by **Cheryl A. Reubenberg**, the *Encyclopedia* represents five years of effort by over 100 scholars and consists of more than 900 articles that run in length from brief definitions to twenty-page discussions.

Topic coverage, while diverse, stays focused on relevant issues and attempts to fairly reflect the perspectives of the various players. Essays range from those covering influential people, organizations, and movements to those dealing with treaties, government reports, and diplomatic agreements. There are articles on the numerous wars and intifadas that have marked the conflict as well as those discussing the various attempts at peace and reconciliation. Controversial issues are discussed ranging from Anti-Semitism to the Barrier (the "Separation Wall" constructed by Israel between it and its Arab neighbors) to the Economic Effects of the Occupation to Terrorism and Suicide Bombings. In addition, there are articles on a variety of other countries that have been involved or affected including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the other Middle East nations, as well as the United States, Turkey, and the European countries. Each entry provides historic context as well as facts about recent developments. They are thorough and grounded in solid scholarship with impressive bibliographies. While not highly illustrated there are number of relevant and helpful maps. Although a topical index is not provided and would be a help, the general index is comprehensive and well-constructed with page references provided for the various aspects within the main terms listed. In addition, the set utilizes capitalization within the text of each article to indicate other article titles as well as numerous "see also" references to related entries.

The *Encyclopedia of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* is an impressive contribution to the scholarship on a significant topic. Admittedly there have been other well received recent efforts like the *Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Political, Social, and Military History* (ABC-CLIO, 978-1851098415, 2008, \$395) and the *Historical Dictionary of the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (Scarecrow, 978-0810853430, 2006, \$108.90). However, given its

obvious attention to scholarly detail, this current work is well worth considering — even by libraries who also own the other two titles. In short, academic and large public libraries serious about collecting on this seminal issue will want to add this title to their collections.

The *Encyclopedia of Sports Medicine* (2010, 978-1412961158, \$995) is a specialized set from **Sage Reference** that utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to offer comprehensive coverage of a field attracting growing interest. Editor **Lyle J. Micheli** notes in his introduction that today's practitioners of sports medicine come from a variety of fields and include orthopedists, athletic trainers, nutritionists, and psychologists among others. It is fair to say that he, his Advisory Board, and his contributors have done their best to see that these varied perspectives are recognized and represented in the approximately 600 articles contained in this set.

Examining the Reader's Guide that organizes the entries into related subject groups gives a solid indication of the diversity of coverage. As one might expect, articles cluster around subjects like the medical conditions affecting sports participation, injuries and disorders, the prevention and treatment of injuries as well as rehabilitation and physical therapy. But there are also articles that look at biomechanics, diet and nutrition, conditioning and training, and sports psychology as well as those discussing more controversial issues like doping and performance enhancement, women in sports, and sports' role in society. Overall, the articles appear well written and balanced with the intention of informing both the interested lay reader as well as the serious scholar. Given the subject coverage, the language can be technical at times, but necessary definitions and explanations are provided within the text of each article, and there is a useful glossary in the last volume of the set. A list of further readings is provided for each entry, but they are not necessarily a bibliography of those resources used by the author in writing the article. Rather, they are intended to give the reader a select list of articles and Websites that are chosen "for first-stop research on the subject." There are also two appendices, including one showing numerous techniques for taping and bracing injuries that includes B&W photos and another appendix listing relevant sports medicine organizations. "See also" references are provided for each article, and the general index is well structured and thorough.

With the *Encyclopedia of Sports Medicine*, Editor **Lyle J. Micheli** and his team of expert contributors provide a reference set that will be valued by a number of users from the professional practitioner to the serious student to the concerned athlete. The articles are full of useful facts and analysis that will answer a wide variety of questions, whether they are from the weekend jogger inquiring at the public library or from a nursing student using an academic or medical library. The *Encyclopedia* is also avail-

able in electronic format, and those libraries that are interested can request a free 30-day online trial at www.sagepub.com/freetrial. However, whether it is in print or online, this is a resource that many libraries will want to add to their collections.

This present set also serves to update and complement much of the information in **Blackwell's Encyclopaedia of Sports Medicine**, which is a multi-volume series published from 1993 through 2009. This 14-book series is an **IOC Medical Commission** effort done in collaboration with the **International Federation of Sports Medicine**.

(Further information is available at <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/seriesbyseries.asp?ref=ESM>.)

The *Encyclopedia of Social Movement Media* (2011, 9780761926887, \$150) is another recent **Sage Reference** publication deserving of attention. This one-volume work is edited by **John D.H. Downing**, the founding director of the **Global Media Research Center** at **Southern Illinois University** at Carbondale. The *Encyclopedia* is one of those works that tries to lend definition to a topic by bring together a diverse array of facts, issues, and concepts into a common related theme.

In attempting this, **Downing** and his contributors cast a wide net. The term "Social Movement Media" encompasses what are also known as alternative, community, grassroots, and participatory media as well as subcategories like feminist, environmental, radical, and ethnic/racial media. The focus here is not the mainstream and establishment media, nor is it restricted to the United States and Europe. As a result, readers will find entries that cover topics ranging from Alternative Media in Malaysia to Indigenous Radio Stations in Mexico to the *Samizdat* Underground Media in the Soviet Bloc. There are also articles covering specific publications and outlets ranging from the *Advocate* to the *Whole Earth Catalog* to *Al-Jazeera*, while the revolutionary influence of the Internet is captured in articles on Social Movement Media in the 2009 Crisis in Iran, the Internet and the Fall of Dictatorship in Indonesia and Women Bloggers in Egypt. In addition, the role of the arts in these movements is embodied in separate entries that offer coverage of topics like Street Theater in Canada, Activist Cinema in France, Reggae and Resistance in Jamaica, and Dance as Social Activism in South Asia. Value-added features include a helpful Reader's Guide grouping related articles under broader categories, a well-constructed index as well as lists of further readings and "see also" references after each entry. The writing is reader-friendly and accessible but solidly grounded in scholarship.

The *Encyclopedia of Social Movement Media* is an ambitious effort. It explains to readers the meaning, dynamics, and social implications of what is collectively called social

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movement media and traces its development from the beginning of the 20th century through to the present. The *Encyclopedia* offers a revealing perspective on the numerous and powerful forms of media that exist outside the mainstream. Both researchers and interested lay readers will find the set of real value in offering both an overall perspective as well as in addressing specific questions.

With the exponential growth of social networking and other new technologies, the capabilities of social movement media can only be increased and their influence and importance enhanced. Given this, one hopes that, as the editor notes in his introduction, this encyclopedia is "a down payment on a second, much more extensive project." The topic is certainly worthy of the effort. Regardless, academic libraries will want the current edition either in reference or circulating collections depending on need. Larger public libraries will also be wise to consider it. (The electronic edition is priced at \$190 and is available via **Sage Reference Online**.)

Two recently-published encyclopedias focus on the same fascinating and engaging topic. However, they take somewhat different approaches. **ABC-CLIO's *Space Exploration and Humanity: A Historical Encyclopedia*** (2010, 978-1851095148, \$180) offers a broader perspective that takes into account the cultural, economic, political, and societal elements of the issues involved. ***Spaceflight: A Historical Encyclopedia*** (2010, 978-0313378690, \$295) published by **Greenwood Press** (an **ABC-CLIO** imprint) is more interested in the history of manned and robotic flights as well as in providing entries on the important pioneers of, and current contributors to, the world of space exploration.

Produced in conjunction with the History Committee of the **American Astronautical Society**, *Space Exploration and Humanity* is a two-volume set that employs both a "topical and alphabetical arrangement" in organizing its entries. The main structure is a topical hierarchy with the articles within each topic listed alphabetically. For example the broad topic Military Applications is divided into subtopics like Antisatellite Systems, Ballistic Missiles and Defense, Doctrine and Warfare, etc. These in turn are divided into more specific areas of interest like High Altitude Nuclear Tests, Strategic Defense Initiative, and Military Space Doctrine. Admittedly, this is a useful arrangement for the serious student, especially in that it both allows and encourages research into related aspects of a topic. However, it also requires particular attention to finding aids like the tables of contents and the general index. In fact, the editors provide a very thorough section on "Using this Encyclopedia" which is intended specifically for undergraduates. Reading this section is a must in order to make the most effective use of the set and in some ways serves as short tutorial on the research process itself.

Naturally a good deal of attention is paid to the science of space exploration with sections

on Astrobiology, Astrophysics, Planetary Sciences, Biomedical Science, and Technology and Engineering among others. These sections contain articles ranging from those on High Energy Astrophysics to Asteroids; Exoplanets to Scientific Detectors; Comets to Aerospace Medicine; and Flight Software to Landing Craft. However, there is also a large section on Space and Society including entries that discuss topics in Space Education, Media and Popular Culture, Space Politics, and the Economics of Space. The set is illustrated with photos and a number of helpful tables and charts. There are also sidebars containing short biographical sketches as well as brief bibliographies provided for each entry. A useful glossary and a list of acronyms offer additional value to the set.

Serious efforts have been made to make ***Space Exploration and Humanity: A Historical Encyclopedia*** as comprehensive and authoritative as possible. Scholarly care is evident in all aspect of this reference. Initially, users may find the arrangement a bit confusing. However, a reading of the "Using this Encyclopedia" section will make it understandable and is well worth the time. In fact, time is a key to unlocking the true, full value of this encyclopedia. While a solid index allows dipping into these two volumes for specific facts, it is constructed in a way that requires a commitment of time and effort to fully appreciate. Needless to say, those interested in space exploration will welcome the task. Academic and larger public libraries will be wise to give it their full consideration.

Spaceflight: A Historical Encyclopedia utilizes the more traditional alphabetical arrangement and is intended for a more popular audience. The concentration in this three-volume set is on space flight and the people who make it happen. It contains some 700 articles that treat "every human space mission, as well as all significant robotic lunar and planetary space exploration programs from the 1950s through the 2008 Space Shuttle and the Soyuz flights."

Authored by **Patrick J. Walsh**, this encyclopedia manages to condense a large amount of information into interesting and readable articles that discuss the development and implementation of numerous space missions. While the major emphasis is on the US and Soviet/Russian efforts, there is also coverage of the Chinese, Indian, and European Space Agency programs as well as others. Another significant part of **Mr. Walsh's** efforts are the biographies that highlight the careers and contributions of both well- and lesser-known astronauts, cosmonauts, taikonauts, and relevant scientists and engineers. He also provides individual entries on national and international agencies responsible for space exploration. The articles are written in an unassuming and straightforward style that should engage readers. **Mr. Walsh** deserves credit for both his research and his enthusiastic and informed treatment of the numerous space programs and personalities discussed here. Value-added features include a full list of the articles printed in each of the three volumes and a comprehensive index providing access to specific information. Although the index is very helpful, any future edition would be enhanced by providing a topical index as well as offering "see also" references at the end of each article

linking to related entries. While individual entries do not have bibliographies, there is an overall bibliography in the third volume that is divided into broad subject categories providing valuable suggestions for further research. There is also a thorough chronology of human spaceflight starting with **Yuri Gagarin's** Vostok I mission in 1961 to the International Space Station Expedition 18 in 2008.

Spaceflight: A Historical Encyclopedia is well-researched and written in an accessible style that should appeal to high school students and first-year undergraduates as well as interested lay readers. It should find a home in high school, public, and undergraduate libraries where there is interest.

(Both of these encyclopedias are available electronically. Pricing and order information is available at: <http://www.abc-clio.com/contact/customerService/>.)

Grey House Publishing continues to update its various print directories. Two recent examples include one of its old standbys, the ***Complete Learning Disabilities Directory*** (2010, 978-1592375868, \$150) in its 17th edition. The other is the ***Complete Mental Health Directory*** (2010, 978-1592375448, \$165), a relative newcomer now in "only" its 7th edition.

As in past releases, the ***Complete Learning Disabilities Directory*** provides up-to-date listings for relevant associations, state and national programs, individual schools, colleges, and learning centers as well as specific camps & summer programs. The ***Directory*** also provides contact information and descriptions for a variety of media from magazines to books and from videos to Websites and other computer resources. There are also separate sections for classroom resources and testing materials as well as resources for developing vocational & transitional skills. A variety of useful indexes are provided including those by subject, entry, publisher name, and geographic location.

Following in the footsteps of past editions, the ***Complete Learning Disabilities Directory*** remains a comprehensive resource that will be valued by those with learning disabilities and their families as well as by the teachers and professionals who serve them.

The ***Complete Mental Health Directory*** starts by providing lists of resources categorized under specific disorders ranging from alcohol and substance abuse to schizophrenia and including others like autism, eating disorders, gender identification, impulse control, attention deficit, psychosomatic, and sleep disorders as well as the newly-added category of pediatric and adolescent issues. In addition, there are lists of state and national associations, government agencies, professional and support services, publishers of relevant resources, specific facilities listed by state, and clinical management resources from management to software companies. Useful indexes arranged by disorder, entry, and geographic location are also included.

Both these directories provide one-stop, easy-to-use compendiums of essential information for people needing access to the contacts and resources listed. Public libraries with

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Column Editor's Note: *The American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans is just around the corner, and this year's spectacular schedule offers preconferences and sessions to expand your professional knowledge and skills. How timely that this month's MM reviewers, Amy Gustavson and Bryna Coonin, are sharing their evaluation of two new ALA titles — be sure to check out these and other books at the ALA Store in the Exhibit Hall. Gustavson, who received her MLS from North Carolina Central University, is the instructional services coordinator at Joyner Library at East Carolina University, where she engages students and faculty in — among other things — quality research and effective uses of technology. Coonin, Coastal Resources Management Librarian at Joyner Library at East Carolina University, received her MSL from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She also holds an MBA from Meredith College. She has most recently written and presented about open-access issues in library research and publishing. Many thanks, Amy and Bryna, and happy ALA-ing and reading, everyone! — DV*

American Library Association. *ALA Guide to Sociology & Psychology Reference.*
Chicago, IL: American Library Association, 2011.
978-0-8389-1025-2. 320 pages. \$65.00.

Reviewed by **Amy Gustavson** (Coordinator of Instructional Services,
East Carolina University) <gustavsona@ecu.edu>

ALA Guide to Sociology and Psychology Reference is intended for use by academic libraries in North America, although public and school libraries can also benefit from using it. As the title suggests, the monograph is divided into two major sections on sociology and psychology reference resources. Each entry is annotated with an entry number, bibliographic citation, Dewey call number, LC call number, and annotation.

Sociology and Psychology Reference conceptualizes sociology as the study of human society, and as a result the sociology section is expanded to include a broader cross-section of resources than a reader would usually associate with sociology. The sociology section includes four well-developed chapters on general works; theory, methods, and statistics; an expansive chapter on social conditions and welfare; and race and ethnicity. Surprisingly, the social conditions and welfare chapter includes closely-related social science disciplines such as marriage and family, social work, gerontology, and fifteen other topics related to the study of human society. These three sections are a welcome discovery for librarians looking for resources in the helping professions. The

social conditions and welfare chapter also provides resources on: aging and the elderly; childhood and adolescence; poverty and the poor; disabilities and the disabled; and human phenomenon such as cyberspace and the internet; alcoholism and drug abuse; and violence. The chapter on race and ethnicity focuses on African Americans, Arab Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans.

The psychology section is divided into twelve short chapters that total a fourth of the book. It includes general works; research methodology and statistics; tests and measures; and specific psychological disciplines such as development, education, and clinical psychology. The strongest chapters are general works and tests and measures. General works lists the core of psychology reference works that should be found in all academic libraries. The tests and measurements chapter consist of the five core resources for test reviews and indexes. It should be noted that the resource entry numbers

are not consistent between the psychology chapter, which begins at number one, and the book index, which continues beyond the sociology entry numbers.

I was overjoyed when I saw the announcement for *ALA Guide to Sociology and Psychology Reference* because I wanted to improve my library's reference collection in GBLT, clinical psychology, and neuroscience resources. Oddly enough, these topics are the three shortcomings of this work. The forward to the sociology section promises a section on gender studies that includes gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender (GBLT) and women's studies. Unfortunately, the chapter wasn't included in the final product. The psychology forward states that resources related to biology, mental illness, or psychoanalysis were omitted from the book. Although I can understand the reasoning for removing the multidisciplinary sections from the book, I think it's a disappointing omission for an ALA Edition because the work now falls short of a comprehensive resource. Most surprisingly, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV) was not listed in the clinical psychology chapter or in the entire book. In light of the absence of biology, mental health, or psychoanalysis sources, readers should see the *Guide to Reference* database published by the American Library Association for psychiatry and medical and health sciences for resources in these areas.

Even with the noted issues, the *ALA Guide to Sociology and Psychology Reference* provides a strong foundation to sociology reference resources and a brief survey of psychology reference resources. Social science reference and collection librarians will find this resource helpful to develop reference and general collections; however, any user of this book should be aware that it is not a comprehensive resource. Please consult the *Guide to Reference* database for a more complete reference resource.

Mates, Barbara T., with William R. Reed IV. *Assistive Technologies in the Library.*
Chicago, IL: American Library Association, 2011. 978-838910702. 206 pages. \$49.50.

Reviewed by **Bryna Coonin** (Reference Librarian, Joyner Library, East Carolina University)
<cooninb@ecu.edu>

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patrons asking for this type information as well as academic libraries supporting education and psychology courses, should take a serious look at these two resources.

The information contained in both these resources is also available electronically via subscription to **G.O.L.D. — Grey House Online Database**. For more information, pricing, etc., visit <http://gold.greyhouse.com>. 🐼

It has been twenty years since **Barbara Mates** published her 1991 volume, *Library Technology for Visually and Physically Impaired Patrons*. This new offering serves as both an update to the earlier book and also as useful barometer to gauge the progress that has been made over two decades in making our library environments accessible to all.

Why the new edition? The need to account for advances in technology is the most obvious answer, but not the only one. When **Mates** published her 1991 book, library technology

was geared almost solely to providing persons with visual and physical impairments access to the print environment. Large-print versions of books, books on tape, magnification equipment, adjustable tables, some subscriptions to a few magazines in Braille format, and maybe some text captioning for selected videos and movies were often the extent of what was possible in libraries. The wider availability of the Internet in the 1990s changed the library accessibility equation. Developments in federal

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