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From the Reference Desk--Reviews of Reference Titles

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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>

American Governance (2016, 9780028662497, \$700) is a major five-volume set recently published by **Macmillan Reference USA**. Edited by **Stephen Schechter**, this encyclopedia includes 737 entries authored by 414 scholars that treat a broad swath of topics and issues related to a research topic that most academic libraries support.

The coverage here is comprehensive and includes articles that discuss key concepts and principles ranging from the meaning of government and self-governance to power, justice and equality, as well as articles that focus on legal foundations like constitutionalism and judicial review, not to mention those covering specific laws and landmark legal cases. The ways Americans govern themselves are explored in entries ranging from those on citizenship and civic duty to those dealing with voting behavior, interest groups, dissent, political parties, and specific governing bodies. A lot of attention is also paid to other nuts and bolts issues including the various parts of the policy making process, diverse policy types, intergovernmental relations, and the role of lobbying. In addition, there are a number of biographical entries, not to mention articles, covering institutions ranging from local boards of education to the Congressional Budget Office to the Electoral College.

The entries are well written and thorough, providing researchers clear explanations and useful analysis of the topics being covered. They can vary in length from 250 word definitions to involved 7,000 word essays that cover major concepts, events, or fields of study germane to American governance. Aside from providing pertinent information about the topic, each entry has “see also” references and a valuable bibliography which will prove useful for further research. A thematic outline consisting of 66 categories organizes the various topics providing not only a useful browsing aid but an excellent overview of the coverage. Black and white photos and illustrations are interspersed throughout all the volumes. Other added value features include a list of relevant



websites, a short collection of primary “foundational” documents, and both a helpful subject index as well as an index of the legal cases covered.

American Governance is a thoughtful, comprehensive, and well designed reference work that students and researchers will find of real value. As one examines this set, the overall impression is one of serious scholarship having lasting merit. Welcome attention is paid to the intellectual underpinnings of American governance and the constitutional and legal framework within which it exists as well as the numerous institutions and processes that enable it to function. Academic libraries supporting classes in political science, governmental studies, and public administration will find this set particularly worthwhile. At a time where one and two volume reference works seem to dominate the landscape, it is refreshing to see such a well designed, scholarly, multi-volume treatment of a highly studied topic. The eBook version is available via the **Gale Virtual Reference Library** platform; e-ISBN: 9780028662558.

A Guide to Intra-state Wars: An Examination of Civil, Regional, and Intercommunal Wars, 1816-2014 (2015, 9780872897755,

\$175) is a single-volume work from **CQ Press** that profiles some 400 intra-state wars that have occurred in regions throughout the world. An outgrowth of the Correlates of War Project, the longest running research program in the study of international relations, it is edited by scholars **Jeffrey Dixon** and **Meredith Reid Sarkees** and springs from the perceived need for the systematic, scientific study of war.

The editors lay the ground work for this volume with the first two chapters in which they describe the COW project and explain how they distinguish among civil, regional, and inter-communal wars and why these conflicts are relevant. There is also a discussion of the data sets and coding used for the statistics cited. The remaining six chapters are devoted to coverage of intra-state wars in North America, South America, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, Asia and Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa. Each entry is structured in a similar fashion and starts with basic facts like the participants, dates, number of deaths, the initiator, the outcome, the type war, and the total number of military personnel followed by the numbers engaged in the actual theater of war. However, the bulk

of each entry consists of a description of the antecedents or events leading to the conflict, a narrative about the war itself, and a discussion of its termination and outcome. Given the scholarly concern for data in this type research, the coding decisions that led to the statistics quoted are also described. Each entry ends with a list of the sources referenced by author which refers to an impressive bibliography in the back. The entries are thorough and detailed with factual accounts and relevant data. There is also a chronology including all of the wars covered and a useful general index.

Given that far more attention has been paid to inter-state and great power wars, many of the conflicts covered in ***A Guide to Intra-state Wars*** are obscure. However, as this reference makes clear, these wars play a vital role in telling the history of global conflict over the last two centuries. Editors **Dixon** and **Sarkees** have done an important service in gathering relevant facts about these conflicts and putting them in one handy and easy to navigate volume. The care and attention to relevant facts and data is also obvious and adds a welcome scholarly dimension to each entry. Most academic libraries will welcome a copy in either reference or circulation depending on need. The electronic version is available on the **Sage Knowledge** platform, e-ISBN: 9781452234205.

Salem Press has added another title to its ***Defining Documents in American History*** series. Edited by **Michael Shally-Jensen**, ***Defining Documents in American History: Civil Rights (1954-2015)*** (2016: 978-1-61925-856-3, \$175) focuses on a defining movement within our nation’s most recent history.

Using the tried and true format established for the series, 40 primary sources are considered, which in this case include speeches, laws, letters, religious sermons, and excerpts from legal cases. All or part of the document is contained in the entry supported with a critical essay that includes an overview, a biography of the sources’ author, a document analysis, the key themes, and a discussion of the defining moment leading to the creation of the document. As you might expect, documents dealing with African American civil rights are the most numerous but other minorities are given deserved attention including Women, Latinos, Gays, and Native Americans.

As with other titles in this series, each essay provides a clear and relevant discussion that will be helpful to students in understanding the context of the document and its importance, as well as a list of resources for further research.

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A chronological list of all the documents, a collected bibliography and a general index round out the volume.

As with all other Salem Press titles, electronic access to the eBook is provided with a print purchase, e-ISBN: 9781619258570.

The *Encyclopedia of War Journalism 1807-2015* (2015, 9781619257450, \$165) is the third edition of a title that was originally published in 1997 as the *Historical Dictionary of War Journalism* by Greenwood Press. This most recent edition is published by Grey House Publishing, but as all prior editions it is authored by Mitchel P. Roth. Many of the entries have been updated and revised and there are some 200 more entries than in the 2nd edition for a total of more than 1,100.

The vast majority of entries are biographical and cover correspondents, illustrators and photographers. Each of these entries includes birth and death dates (when appropriate), as well as the pertinent facts about each individual's career and contribution. Considering that thousands of people have reported on wars in the last 200 years, coverage is selective and includes only those reporting on significant conflicts from the frontlines. In addition, they must have been affiliated with a newspaper, magazine, radio, television, or digital news source. Although many of the journalists covered are from the United States and Britain there is representation from a number of other countries. Along with these biographical entries, there are entries on individual publications and publishers, news organizations, relevant journalistic awards and prizes and the actual conflicts being covered. The articles are brief and straightforward, offering basic but useful information. Each entry has a short list of references of one or two entries that in the case of better known journalists could be more expansive. Cross references are indicated with an asterisk within the text. Supplementing and supporting the entries is a list of primary documents and photographs arranged by the wars covered including conflicts ranging from the Crimean War to the American Civil War and from the Boer War to the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. There is also a chronology as well as a series of appendices that list all the correspondents by the wars that they covered. A collected bibliography and a general index round out the volume.

The *Encyclopedia of War Journalism 1807-2015* is a one-volume reference that offers up-to-date coverage of a sometimes obscure, but nonetheless important topic. It gathers together relevant biographical facts about both well and lesser known war journalists and combines those facts with coverage of other

important and related topics to offer a handy and useful background source for students doing research in the area. It is one of those titles that could easily find a place in either reference or circulating collections. It is also available as an eBook (eISBN: 9781619257467). For a list of eBook vendors see: <http://www.greyhouse.com/ebooks.htm>.

Extra Servings

- **BowArrow Publishing** has published the third edition of *Tiller's Guide to Indian Country: Economic Profiles of American Indian Reservations* as an eBook in PDF. (2015, 9781885931061, \$325) Compiled by **Dr. Veronica E. Velarde Tiller**, noted historian and member of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, this reference "profiles 567 federally recognized Indian tribes from Maine to San Diego County, from Alaska to the Everglades, and includes brief accounts of the history and culture of each, with detailed information regarding their economies, infrastructure, resources, enterprises, labor forces, populations, size and characteristics of their reservations, as well as hard-to-obtain contact information..." (For further information go to www.veronicatiller.com.)

Macmillan Reference USA is releasing some newer titles:

- *Mathematics* (2016, 9780028663777, \$725) is the 2nd Edition of a reference first published in 2002. It is a four-volume work offering a full-color update that "explains concepts, provides a historical overview, and explores careers in the field. Written for middle school/high school students, as well as non-math-major undergraduates, *Mathematics* contains some 300 entries that cover the basics of algebra, geometry and trigonometry, with the goal of making these topics more accessible and interesting. Readers will see the uses and effects of math in daily life, while short biographies highlight notable mathematicians. Thirty percent of the content is new to this edition, highlighting advances in mathematics since 2000..."
- *The College Blue Book*, 43rd Edition (2016, 9780028663135, \$660) is a four-volume set that provides "a comprehensive guide covering more than 12,000 institutions of higher learning, occupational and technical schools, and distance learning programs. The College Blue Book also features information on obtaining financial assistance for pursuing postsecondary education..."

Salem also has a couple of new titles in the offering:

- *Constitutional Amendments*, 2nd Edition (Sept. 2016, ISBN: 9781682171769, \$245; e-ISBN 978-1-68217-177-6, \$245) is an "updated encyclopedia that provides new analysis of the people, procedures, politics, primary documents and campaigns for

the 27 Amendments to the Constitution of the United States... Chapters include a reprint of the Amendment; an Introduction to the reasons behind the amendment and its path to ratification; the Debate in Congress with transcripts of the back and forth from both advocates and opponents; Historical Background Documents; and As Submitted to the States to show how and when the states voted..."

- *Critical Survey of American Literature* (Nov. 2016, ISBN: 9781682171288, \$499; e-ISBN: 9781682171479, \$499) was "previously published as *Magill's Survey of American Literature* in 2006, it offers detailed profiles of major American authors of fiction, drama, and poetry, each with sections on biography, general analysis, and analysis of the author's most important works. This new edition features over 100 new entries focusing on contemporary American authors at the core of literary studies..."

SAGE Publishing and **CQ Press** have some new and forthcoming titles that deserve attention:

- *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Marriage, Family, and Couples Counseling* (Oct. 2016, ISBN: 9781483369556, \$650) is a new, four-volume set intended "for researchers seeking to broaden their knowledge of this vast and diffuse field... this authoritative Encyclopedia provides readers with a fully comprehensive and accessible reference to aid in understanding the full scope and diversity of theories, approaches and techniques and how they address various life events within the unique dynamics of families, couples and related interpersonal relationships..."
- *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Online Education* (Oct. 2016, ISBN: 9781483318356, \$495) is a three-volume set that "provides a thorough and engaging reference on all aspects of this field, from the theoretical dimensions of teaching online to the technological aspects of implementing online courses—with a central focus on the effective education of students..."
- *CQ Press Guide to Radical Politics in the United States* (April 2016, ISBN: 9781452292274, \$185) "provides an overview of radical U.S. political movements on both the left and the right sides of the ideological spectrum. It focuses on analyzing the origins and trajectory of the various movements, and the impact that movement ideas and activities have had on mainstream American politics. This guide is organized thematically, with each chapter focusing on a prominent arena of radical activism in the United States..."
- *The CQ Press Guide to Urban Politics and Policy in the United States* (Mar.

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Collecting to the Core — Moving Texts (i.e., Videos)

by **Susan L. Wiesner** (Laban/Bartenieff Archivist, University of Maryland Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library; Dance Editor, *Resources for College Libraries*) <swiesner@umd.edu>



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Column Editor's Note: The "Collecting to the Core" column highlights monographic works that are essential to the academic library within a particular discipline, inspired by the *Resources for College Libraries* bibliography (online at <http://www.rclweb.net>). In each essay, subject specialists introduce and explain the classic titles and topics that continue to remain relevant to the undergraduate curriculum and library collection. Disciplinary trends may shift, but some classics never go out of style. — AD

When I studied dance theory and history in college the professor assigned the task of building an anthology of dance works by the choreographers who helped shape the dance of the twentieth century. While there was a great deal of information available regarding individuals' biographical details, choreology, personal aesthetic, cultural data, and responses to their works (reviews, etc.), in order to complete the assignment we needed to see the dances. So we watched recordings of the dances on reel-to-reel, U-matic, Beta disc, VHS, and yes, even some on LaserDisc (DVDs hadn't been produced yet). Later, as a graduate student and scholar, I conducted close readings (exegeses) of danced texts, which required the ability to stop, slow, speed up, view and re-view all or portions of a recorded work. At that time my needs were met by the institutions' libraries. Then, when I started working in an academic library as a drama and dance librarian, I began conducting collection assessments. Through experience I knew what texts best supported research and theoretical courses, yet as I delved into the holdings, I noticed that a large portion of what would constitute a good dance collection was missing: that is, the visual component. For no matter how comprehensive a collection might be in terms of written texts, dance is a visual art, and thus it is imperative that scholars, researchers, and students have access to a breadth of dance works in a visual medium, the moving texts. And, although I had been fortunate that the universities where I studied held fairly large collections, I realized as a librarian that research can be restricted by a lack of holdings in visual materials.

Providing access to visual representations of dance works, however, is not as simple as adding videos to a collection. Several factors impact the value of a visual collection. As with written texts, the academic focus of the dance curriculum will drive the selection process for visual media. An undergraduate department with a conservatory approach will perhaps need more instructional videos on technique in the department's focused genres (e.g., ballet, jazz, modern). A department that concentrates on dance history and theory (especially in graduate studies) will require examples of choreography from not only the well-known choreographers and dancers but also those whose work might not be commercially available. And, as many libraries depend upon approval plans for purchasing materials, which do not take into account the genre or context of the visual material, the automatic purchase of video may not match the requirements of the academic department. Streaming services, such as **Alexander Street Press**, may not comprehensively support course content either, as a breadth of material does not necessarily mean the content is of value to a particular course. For example, in the case of the **Alexander Street Press** database *Dance in Video*, a preponderance of the content is geared toward ballet (25 percent), which will not support a dance history course focused on twentieth century modern dance.¹

Then, too, once selections are made, the purchase of visual material may present a challenge due to availability. Many commercially available videos are not included in conventional distributors' approval plans, and some libraries are not able to purchase directly from vendors such as **Amazon** or **Dance Books**. So, too, might a database be cost prohibitive, and decisions should be made as to a lease option or a purchase. (Full disclosure: at one institution I recommended purchasing *Dance in Video*, while at another we opted for a leased site license.)

Costs aside, at least with the **Alexander Street Press** databases librarians and users can feel assured that the material has been vetted. The same can also be said for collections held by individual repositories or archives such as *Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive*, the **New York Public Library's Jerome Robbins Dance**

Division - Audio and Moving Image, the **Dance Heritage Coalition's Online Exhibition of the Dance Treasures**, and the **Dance Notation Bureau Online Digital Archive**.²⁻⁵ For those interested in dance ethnography or anthropology, the *Ethnographic Video for Instruction & Analysis (EVIA) Digital Archive* project contains materials uploaded by scholars, often from anthropological field work.⁶ It is not open access, but there is a request process for access, and the materials are selected by an editorial committee. The same cannot be said of **YouTube** or **Vimeo**, frequent go-to websites for students and scholars alike. I often speak regarding the many and various instantiations/versions of a work, and use twenty examples of *The Dying Swan* I collected on **YouTube**. Although there is a copy of **Mikhail Fokine's** original version danced by **Anna Pavlova** in those twenty examples, there are many alternate versions of choreography (not **Fokine's**) and dancers (not **Pavlova**), as well as an anime version that is actually *Swan Lake*, not *The Dying Swan*.⁷ Further, in most of these cases, there is no information regarding provenance. In fact, one must search for any hint of provenance; for example, in the **Fokine/Pavlova** clip it is through the public comments that viewers can find details on the ballet's premier date and likely film date. And one should always question whether user-generated information is correct. While metadata may be lacking and provenance unclear, **YouTube** and **Vimeo** do offer convenience, speed, and accessibility often missing in the subscription services and archival repositories (in part due to dissimilar approaches regarding copyright concerns). That said, there are examples of dances posted to **YouTube** by the curated archives mentioned, especially reconstructions from Labanotation uploaded by the **Dance Notation Bureau**. Proper vetting of streamed content then, is required.

Another issue with these streaming databases is the abbreviated lengths of the dance works, as only one- to two-minute clips — often taken out of context — are available, and many are locked due to copyright and fair use issues. So, too, is that aforementioned need to slow down, rewind, and replay portions of a moving text in order to provide analysis, functions not always offered by the databases. Some do, however, offer a means of previewing a work so that a determination can be made as to acquiring a full-length version for a collection either through purchase or ILL.

Staying abreast of the most recent materials can present a challenge as there is, as yet, no equivalent to *Books in Print* or *Choice* for video and other visual media. One small database with reviews of audio/visual material does exist, *Educational Media Reviews Online*, but it includes fewer than 100 reviews of dance videos, doesn't contain

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2016, ISBN: 9781483350035, \$185) uses "the **CQ Press** reference guide approach" to "help students understand how American cities (from old to new) have developed over time (Part I), how

the various city governance structures allocate power across city officials and agencies (Part II), how civic and social forces interact with the organs of city government and organize to win control over these organs and/or their policy outputs (Part III), and what patterns of public goods and services cities produce for their residents (Part IV)..."