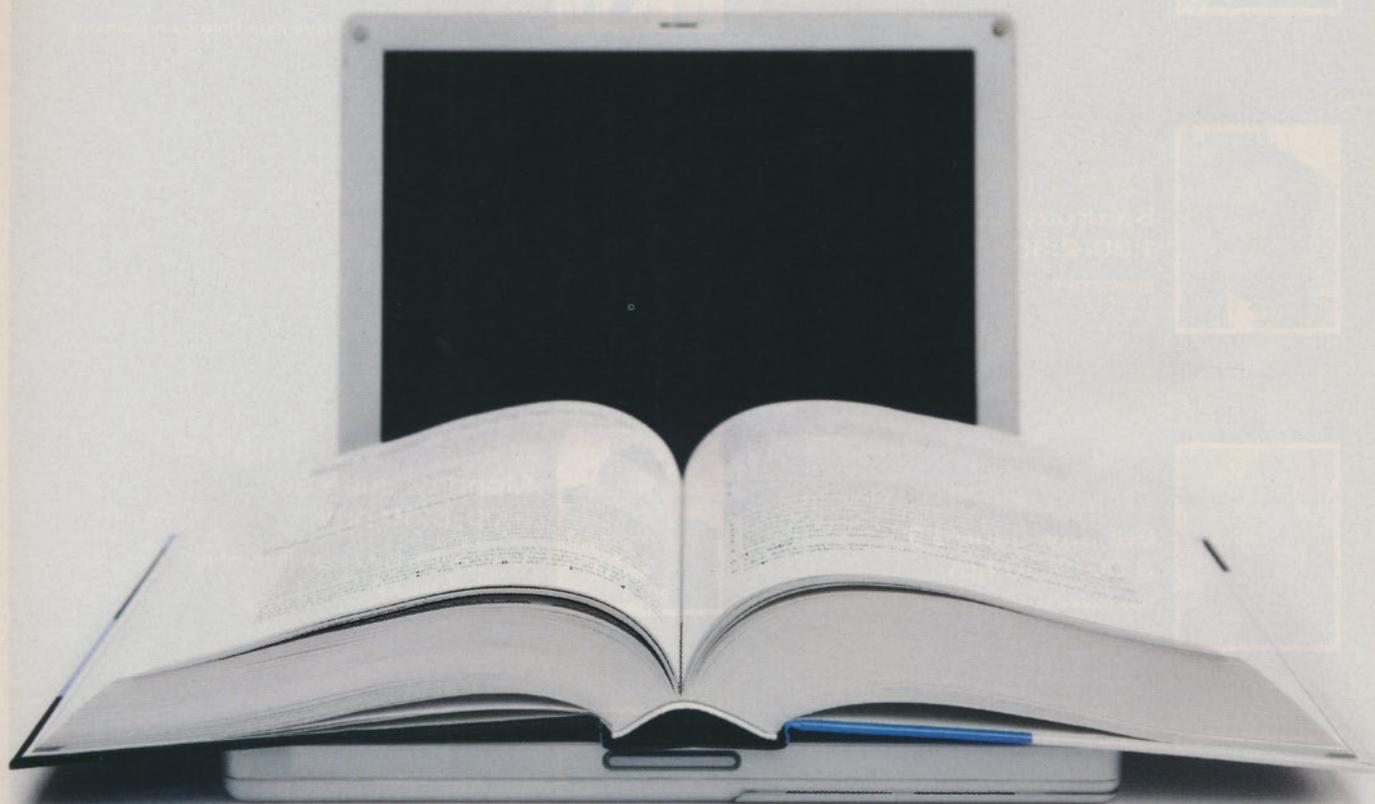


INFORMATION *INVIGORATION*



The 2008 List of Outstanding Reference Sources indicates a renewed interest via print and online

"I recently overheard some colleagues state that 'reference is back,'" says Asia Gross. "My work on the reference desk leads me to believe that it never left."

Gross, chair of the 2007 Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) Outstanding Reference Sources Committee and electronic resources librarian for the Missouri Library Network Corporation in St. Louis, says that this year's choices for outstanding reference titles "show the fascinating and wide breadth of topics covered by recently published reference books."

The 11 titles demonstrate the best new reference materials suitable for small and medium-sized libraries. They were compiled from a list of books forwarded to the seven-member RUSA committee by members of the division, who nominated titles in their subject areas. The committee discussed the merits of each title during the ALA Midwinter

Meeting and decided which ones should be recognized as outstanding.

Gross maintains that this year's list contains encyclopedias and dictionaries that will answer those "tried and true" reference questions in a variety of fields. At the same time, she adds, the committee saw a surge in niche titles.

"While many patrons believe the internet can answer most of their basic questions, it seems that some out there are returning to books," Gross notes.

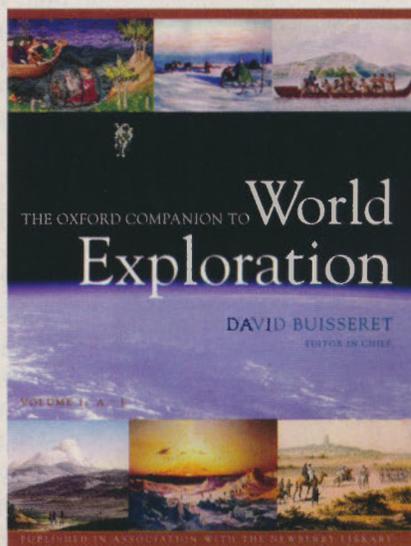
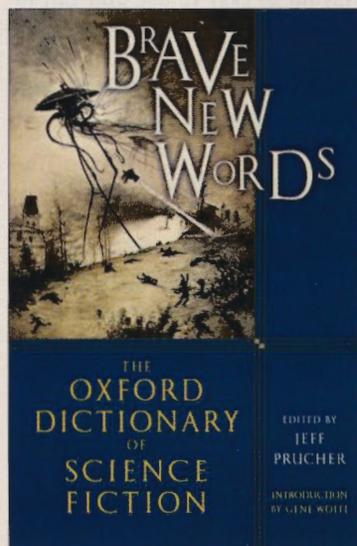
In a continued shift, nine of the selected titles are available in some electronic form, mostly as e-books. "This is not a new trend," Gross explains, "but rather a reiteration of what libraries are already seeing, that the future of refer-

ence is electronic." Since in some cases e-book costs are negotiable, many of the following annotations do not include a price for them.

She adds that overall, the committee was pleased to see that publishers are still producing solid reference works at reasonable prices. "We look forward to what the next year has to bring."

Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction, EDITED BY JEFF PRUCHER. 342 PAGES. OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS (978-0-19-530567-8), \$29.95.

Based on historic principles, this dictionary uses the methods of the



Oxford English Dictionary while drawing on television, movie, and print media to establish definitions and provenance for science fiction terms. The 11 one-page essays for terms and concepts that require more discussion provide users with unique insight into the sci-fi world. An excellent source for any library, the volume is highly accessible and a joy to read.

APA Dictionary of Psychology, EDITED

BY GARY R. VANDENBOS. 1,024 PAGES. AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (1-59147-380-2), \$49.95.

The American Psychological Association has produced its first dictionary, 10 years in the making. The comprehensive volume includes 25,000 terms and definitions, thousands of cross-references, and four appendixes, which gather entries thematically and cover biographies; institutions, associations, and organizations; psychological therapies and interventions; and psychological tests and assessment instruments.

but also into the realm of mythological places (Atlantis) and beyond this world into outer space. More than 700 articles written by an impressive international cadre of scholars are accompanied by valuable bibliographies and highlighted with excerpts from primary sources, illustrations, and maps. Access is provided by the A-to-Z arrangement, a topical outline of entries, and an extensive index.

Postwar America: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History,

EDITED BY JAMES CIMENT. 4 VOLS., 1,574 PAGES. M. E. SHARPE (978-0-76568067-9), \$399.

The dynamic panorama of postwar America from the end of the second World War to the Iraq War is captured in more than 550 entries and sidebars covering major events and general topics, including the Vietnam War and health care, to lesser-known events and specific topics, such as the payola scandal and disco. A highlight of the encyclopedia is an annotated list of 500 postwar cultural landmarks—books, movies, music, and more—that make up the zeitgeist of contemporary America. A topic-finder, glossary, comprehensive bibliography, and substantial index round out the volumes.

Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film, EDITED BY BARRY

KEITH GRANT. 4 VOLS., 1,500 PAGES. SCHIRMER REFERENCE (978-0-02865791-2; 978-0-02866100-1 E-BOOK), \$425 PRINT.

This four-volume set is a comprehensive overview of film as an art form and as an industry. It has over 200 main entries on such topics as theory, genre, national cinemas, historical context, studios, categories of actors, and artistic or technical aspects. An additional 250 sidebars give insight into important people in film. Each entry is signed and includes references for more information. The layout is easy to use and fun to browse with crisp, relevant photographs liberally sprinkled throughout.

Encyclopedia of Asian Theatre, EDITED BY SAMUEL L. LEITER. 2

VOLS., 1,024 PAGES. GREENWOOD PRESS (978-0-313-33529-7; 978-1-57356-950-7 E-BOOK), \$225 PRINT; \$247.50 E-BOOK.

The most comprehensive resource on Asian theater ever published, this two-volume set is organized alphabetically and includes information on the major and minor theatrical forms—both classical and modern—in 26 countries within Asia. The over 300 biographical entries are especially useful in light of the fact that this type of information is not otherwise

The Oxford Companion to World Exploration,

EDITED BY DAVID BUISSERET.

2 VOLS. 1,072 PAGES.

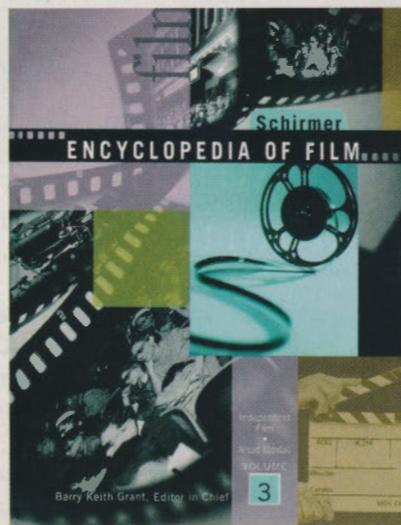
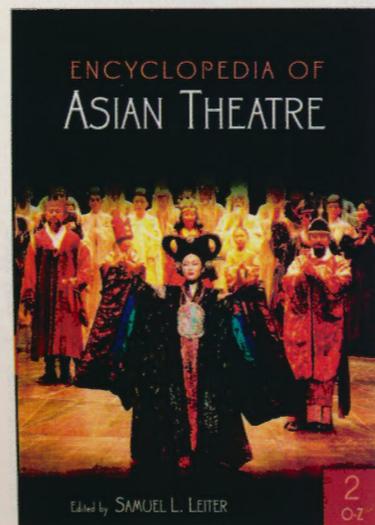
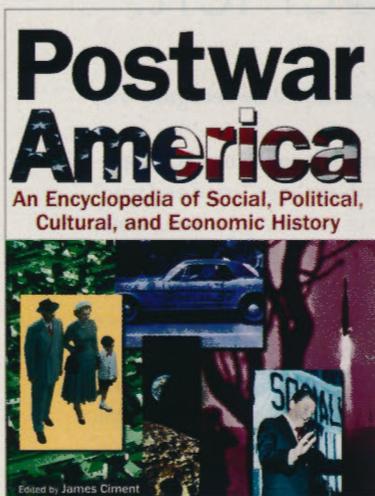
OXFORD UNIVERSITY

PRESS (978-0-19-514922-7;

978-0-19-530741-2

E-BOOK), \$250 PRINT.

Oxford's companion takes the reader on voyages spanning not only the physical world of exploration over all time periods from ancient to modern,



available in a source that is easily accessed by small and medium-sized libraries. In addition to countries, theatrical forms and biographies, the encyclopedia has entries on large cross-cultural topics that give insight into the general theatrical world in this region.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History. EDITED BY JOHN D. HATTENDORF. 4 VOLS., 2,912 PAGES. OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS (978-0-19-513075-1; 978-0-19-530740-5 E-BOOK), \$550 PRINT.

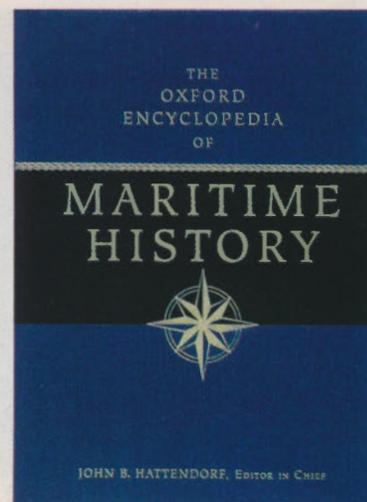
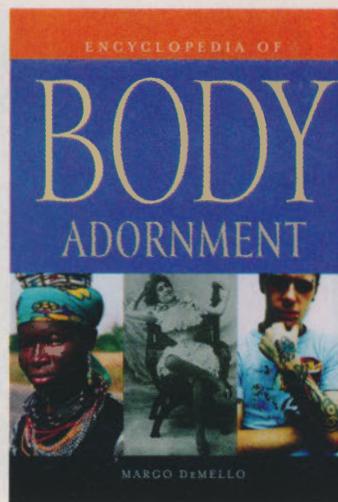
The first offering of all disciplines related to maritime history in one set, the encyclopedia covers a variety of topics. They include art, economic history, exploration, law, literature, naval history, navigational and marine sciences, places, ships and yards, social and labor history, and biographies. The articles, written by an international body of contributors, can be understood by the general reader and yet are worthy of scholarly research. Each article contains the narrative, a bibliography, end references, and, sometimes, cross references within the article. An index to all volumes is found in the fourth volume, accompanied by photographs as well as illustrations of maps, charts, and paintings.

Encyclopedia of Body Adornment. BY MARGO DeMELLO. 360 PAGES. GREENWOOD PRESS (978-0-313-33695-9; 978-0-313-06405-0 E-BOOK), \$79.95 PRINT; \$87.95 E-BOOK.

With over 200 entries, this encyclopedia provides a sophisticated and in-depth analysis of the phenomenon of piercing, painting, tattooing, and all manner of body modification. The author's anthropological approach appeals to both the casual reader and the serious researcher. The photo and illustration quality bring this visual topic to life.

Encyclopedia of Race and Racism, EDITED BY JOHN HARTWELL MOORE. 3 VOLS., 1,500 PAGES. GALE (978-0-02-866020-2; 978-0-02-866116-2 E-BOOK), \$400 PRINT.

Historical, anthropological, sociological, economic, and scientific theories of race and racism are featured in this work as well as an exploration of the social consequences of those theories. Nearly 400 articles investigate specific topics ranging from the border patrol, the Hot-tentot Venus, and human genetics through theories on internalized racism and symbolic racism. While the emphasis is on topics from within the United States, the three volumes also cover information from other countries. Other articles explore the treatment of African Americans and how racism has impacted Latinos, Native Americans, Jews, and other ethnic groups.



The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology, EDITED BY GEORGE RITZER. 11 VOLS., 6,384 PAGES. BLACKWELL (978-1405124331; 978-1405124331 E-BOOK), \$2,695 PRINT. ALSO AVAILABLE AS PART OF BLACKWELL REFERENCE ONLINE.

This 11-volume set provides an introduction to the discipline and theories of sociology for students, researchers, and scholars in the field.

The 1,800 entries range from one-page articles on specific terms such as scapegoating and bell curve to lengthier explorations of key topics, including class consciousness and social control. Extensive cross-referencing and thorough bibliographies add to the set's utility. A lengthy timeline (551 B.C.E.–present) of 700 events, figures, and publications that impacted the field of sociology helps put the discipline into focus for the newcomer.

Encyclopaedia Judaica, EDITED BY FRED SKOLNIK AND MICHAEL BERENBAUM. 22 VOLS., 17,000 PAGES. GALE (978-0-02-865928-2; 978-0-02-866097-4 E-BOOK), \$2,155 PRINT.

Consider this set the definitive source on Jewish life, culture, religion, and history. With over 21,000 scholarly articles written by scholars around the world, the 22-volume edition has been substantially revised from its 1972 version. It includes more than 2,600 new and 11,000 updated entries that bring this work into the 21st century. The e-book version is easily searchable and includes the many illustrations, maps, charts, and tables found in the print edition. ■

