
SOURCES

The alphabetical entries appropriately range between six and ten paragraphs. Each entry has a “Further Reading” list. The entries describe the country itself and the characterizing etiquette and taboos which include but are not limited to clothing, dating, table manners, handshakes and other greetings, food, hospitality, religion, marriage, birth, and death customs. There is a “Culture Shock!” text box with a small globe icon connected to some entries. The “Culture Shock!” information is a helpful paragraph on a little-known aspect of the country’s culture. The title, “Culture Shock!” with the small globe icon seems unnecessarily contrived and should have been more simply stated. There is a selected Bibliography in the back of the book. The index has a listing of the more specific elements of the country’s etiquette and taboos under the name heading, which will be of great help to students.

A niche subject area like this will be the future of successful print reference books. The one volume format makes the book accessible for student checkout. This is an excellent topic for a print book format because etiquette and taboos changes slowly and less dramatically than other topics such as politics. This means greater longevity on the library shelf.—Terry Darr, *Library Director, Loyola Blakefield, Towson, Maryland*

Japanese Americans: The History and Culture of a People.

Edited by Jonathan H. X. Lee. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 462 p. Acid-free \$105 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4189-7). E-book Available (978-1-4408-4190-3), call for pricing.

Japanese Americans: The History and Culture of a People is a single-volume comprehensive resource that addresses many aspects of Japanese American history and culture, and “reveals the long, hard, and aching struggling of Japanese Americans to be treated as Americans” (xiii–xiv). Editor Jonathan H. X. Lee begins the preface with a brief overview of Executive Order 9066 authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942, which enforced a mass incarceration and relocation of approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans. Lee compares this to the modern-day Executive Order 13769, “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” issued by President Donald Trump, which is the travel ban that prevents seven Muslim-majority countries from entry into the United States.

This work is organized into four parts that cover Japanese Americans’ emigration to the United States, political involvement and economic endeavors, cultural heritage and religious traditions, and their contributions to the arts, literature, popular culture, and sports. A table of contents lists all the entries alphabetically under each part. Each part begins with a historical overview, and the entries cover key events, places, and figures that capture the unique and complicated experiences which have shaped the Japanese American identity. Broad subjects like “Japanese American Exclusion,” “Buddhist Churches of America,” and “Japanese Transnational Identity,” are addressed, while other entries cover specific topics like the “No-No Boys,” “Yamato Colony

of California,” and “Floral Arrangements/Ikebana.” The entries were written by seventy-six contributors and their institutional affiliations are listed at the end of the book. Entries conclude with “See also” cross-references to related articles and suggestions for “Further Reading.” These along with a separate extensive “Selected Bibliography” allow for more in-depth exploration. Additionally, a detailed “Chronology of Japanese American History” is included following the preface, and the work concludes with the text of fifteen primary documents, such as “The Treaty of Kanagawa, March 31, 1854,” “Immigration Act of 1917,” and the “Executive Order 9066, February 19, 1942.”

Many libraries may already own Brian Niiya’s single-volume *Encyclopedia of Japanese American History: An A-to-Z Reference from 1868 to the Present*, published in 1993 by Facts on File in partnership with the Japanese American National Museum, with an updated edition published in 2001. This encyclopedia was one of the first of its kind to provide a comprehensive overview of the Japanese American experience. The entries in this encyclopedia are arranged alphabetically by title, making *Japanese Americans: The History and Culture of a People* a little easier to browse since the entries are thematically organized. But overall, these encyclopedias complement each other and could be used concurrently to gain an even richer understanding.

Lee fears that history is repeating itself but believes with learning and (re)educating ourselves of past oppressions, forward progress and change is achievable. Lee hopes that *Japanese Americans: The History and Culture of a People* “will be a useful resource for students who wish to learn about the contribution and history of Japanese Americans,” so that “we remember our history and use it to guide our future as a country of immigrants, a place where liberty, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness is available to all” (xv). *Japanese Americans: The History and Culture of a People* is highly recommended and would be a welcome and valuable addition to any academic or public library.—Megan Coder, *Associate Librarian, State University of New York at New Paltz*

The Routledge Handbook of Language and Professional Communication.

Edited by Vijay Bhatia and Stephen Bremner. London, UK: Routledge, 2014. 584 p. \$204 (ISBN 978-0-415-67619-9)

The contributors in this single-volume handbook thoroughly examine the pedagogic and practitioner interpretations of language and professional communication, as well as the theoretical frameworks of related disciplines: business communication, management communication, workplace communication, corporate communication, and organizational communication. Further, the handbook “is an attempt to introduce current research and practice in the field of language teaching and learning in professional contexts to a wider audience” (xvi).

The thirty-five chapters tend to be quite lengthy—some extending to over twenty pages and contain standard

sections such as, “Related topics,” “Key readings,” and “Bibliography.” Four major sections organize the handbook: “Approaches to Professional Communication,” “Practice,” “Acquisition of Professional Competence,” and “View from the Professions,” which contains interviews with practitioners from the banking, law, accounting, and public relations fields. The handbook concludes with a handy index. All the chapters are jam-packed with useful references for further research.

Contributors to the handbook include both international scholars and practitioners. The information in the handbook is highly technical and may not be as accessible to the traditional undergraduate student; hence, the introduction notes that the audience for the handbook are “newly initiated professional communicators, teachers, and trainers, but also researchers in the field of professional communication” (xvi).

The Routledge Handbook of Language and Professional Communication differs from other works such as the *Encyclopedia of Communication Theory* (SAGE, 2009) in that it is not a browseable encyclopedia that provides quick overviews of communication theories and thus may not appeal to a general audience. Instead, this handbook is exceptionally specialized and will appeal to only those who are scholars or practitioners in the professional communication realm. Recommended for reference collections of academic libraries with graduate programs in professional communication or linguistics.—*Colleen Lougen, Electronic Resources Librarian, SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz, New York*

Sacred Texts Interpreted: Religious Documents Explained.

By Carl Olson. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 2 vols. acid free \$198 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4187-3). E-book available (978-1-4408-4188-0), call for pricing.

Sacred Texts Interpreted (STI) is a collection of religious texts from a variety of different religions. It begins with two brief chapters introducing this work and providing some general insight regarding how one should read sacred texts. The remaining thirteen chapters provide sacred texts from different religions: Baha’ism, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Mormonism, Shinto, Sikhism, and Zoroastrianism.

The purpose of this work is to provide a collection of sacred texts from differing religions in a single publication. Each section begins with a brief historical overview of a religion and the sacred texts that it uses. Each section assumes the reader knows very little about a specific religion and subsequently provides some basic background information on that religion.

The remainder of each chapter is sacred text, texts which serve a foundational role, from that religion. After each portion of text, *STI* provides commentary from the editor, Carl Olson. Olson is a professor of religious studies at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. The comments vary in length anywhere from a sentence or two to a half-page. They

typically provide a summary of what the passage stated, with a handful of interpretive comments throughout.

While the work generally meets the purpose of providing a collection of sacred texts in one book, it would have limited uses in many libraries. Some may find the subject index helpful, particularly when perusing certain inquiries, such as, what the Mormon texts say about Jesus Christ. For this inquiry, the subject index points the reader to the various sacred texts in Mormonism that address this query. Unfortunately, however, this is the only index embedded into *STI*. Could it have included an index of the sacred texts which *STI* includes? Or, at least list the texts as part of the table of contents? This would have made it easier for a patron looking for the primary text of Sikhism’s *Siddh Gosh 12* to know that *STI* includes it.

For a collection of historical texts, a timeline showing the chronological relationships between these differing religions, including the estimated times in which these various texts were written, would be incredibly beneficial. Unfortunately, *STI* does not include anything of this nature.

The final drawback of this work is the fact that many English translations of these primary religious texts are available online at no cost. As many academic libraries face stagnant or declining acquisition budgets, what would lure academic librarians to purchase this work for their institution? Unfortunately, the attractions are minimal.

While academic libraries may not find this work beneficial, it may be different for public and K12 school libraries. For a high school student coming to a K12 school library needing a quick bit of information on what Confucianism teaches, this may be a great asset to assisting that student. Likewise, public libraries may find it helpful for general queries relating to religious texts, particularly for patrons who are hesitant to use online sources.

Overall, *STI* provides access to religious texts with brief introductions and commentaries. Due to the lack of tools (i.e., multiple indexes, charts, etc.), the usefulness of *STI* is limited to basic inquiries, which may be more common in the context of K12 and public libraries than libraries at post-secondary institutions.—*Garrett B. Trott, University Librarian, Corban University, Salem, Oregon*

Today’s Environmental Issues: Democrats and Republicans.

By Teri J. Walker. Across the Aisle. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLO, 2018. 382 p. Acid-free \$97 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4709-7). E-book Available (978-1-4408-4710-3), call for pricing.

Walker is an associate professor of political science at Elmhurst College. This volume is part of a series titled “Across the Aisle.” The other titles cover Social Issues, Economic Issues and Foreign Policy Issues. The preface is written by Lindsey Cormack, an assistant professor of political science and director of the Diplomacy Lab at Stevens Institute of Technology. She goes on to state that members of Congress “do not dedicate the same amount of time and focus to each pressing environment issue.” (vii). Cormack