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<b>A</b> General Works	<b>N</b> Fine Arts
<b>B</b> Philosophy, Religion, Psychology	<b>P</b> Language & Literature
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<b>J</b> Political Science	<b>T</b> Technology
<b>K</b> Law	<b>U</b> Military Science
<b>L</b> Education	<b>V</b> Naval Science
<b>M</b> Music	<b>Z</b> Bibliography & Library Science

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# REFERENCE *and* RESEARCH

## BOOK NEWS

Incorporating *University Press Book News*

The Bibliography of New Scholarly Books

### GENERAL WORKS

AE5 2009-029267 978-0-7166-0110-4  
**The world book encyclopedia; 22v.**  
 Title main entry.  
*World Book*, ©2010 14,300 p. \$956.00

★★★★ Renowned for its exhaustive coverage and authoritative but accessible entries, the World Book encyclopedia remains an outstanding resource, so engaging that readers of all levels find it hard to put down. Especially important for middle and high school students who are learning about a topic for the first time, the encyclopedia is clearly written and organized, each entry having been tested for readability, though without sacrificing content. The volumes are heavily illustrated with photos, drawings, maps, and tables and many of the entries include practical discussion that students—or their parents—can use, as in the 9-page entry on algebra, which includes detailed explanations on how to learn algebra, a list of its terms and definitions, and numerous equations with lengthy answers that explain reasoning. State and country entries are especially thorough, with statistics, color photos, tables, and other visual aids with information on geography, economy, government, and history, and maps so detailed they come with a separate index. The contributors are specialists, the majority hold a PhD in their field. The entries are heavily cross-referenced; longer articles conclude with an outline of the article and a list of study questions. Volume 22 contains a research guide and an exhaustive index. Previous editions cited in *Guide to Reference Books*.

AE100 2009-017572 978-0-7546-7433-7  
**Wikipedia; a new community of practice?.**  
 O'Sullivan, Dan.  
*Ashgate Publishing Co.*, ©2009 191 p. \$79.95

According to Wikipedia, Great Ayton—where historian O'Sullivan resides—is a village in the Hambleton district of North Yorkshire on the edge of the North York Moors in England. In a socio-historical analysis of this highly successful online encyclopedia, he applies group theory to compare and contrast it to mass communication projects of the past: from the ancient library of Alexandria to the making of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Weighing the competitive, individualistic nature of present-day culture against converging cultural production, he discusses Wikipedia's aims, community, structure, costs, relationship to the public, and the nature of knowledge. Lastly, he makes suggestions for browsing, assessing, and contributing to Wikipedia content.

AE100 978-0-9562052-0-9  
**The world and Wikipedia; how we are editing reality.**  
 Dalby, Andrew.  
*Siduri Books*, ©2009 256 p. \$28.95

Wikipedia, as a social phenomenon as well as an intellectual property, has blurred the lines between producers and users of information. Vesting authoritative knowledge, or what passes as such, to the hands of "the people" has set standard definitions of reference works on their collective ears. This book provides a history and analysis of Wikipedia, and offers insights into the evolution and workings of this dynamic informational resource. Distributed in North America by The David Brown Book Co.

AG195 2009-020191 978-1-57859-219-7  
**The handy answer book for kids (and parents), 2d ed.**

Misiroglu, Gina.  
*Visible Ink Press*, ©2010 292 p. \$21.95 (pa)

This color-illustrated reference features relatively brief answers to about 800 common questions children ask. Entries are grouped in sections on topical areas such as outer space, Earth, animals, plants, people around the world, politics and government, how things work, measurement and time, and the body. A final chapter answers tough questions on divorce, life after death, and God. This second edition adds new questions today's kids are likely to ask: Why do some women wear veils? How does an electric car work? What is a test tube baby? What is global warming? Color photos and illustrations are included on about half of the book's pages. Information on the author is not given. The book is distributed by Independent Publishers Group.

AM7 2009-008176 978-0-7546-4691-4  
**Learning at the museum frontiers; identity, race, and power.**

Golding, Viv.  
*Ashgate Publishing Co.*, ©2009 231 p. \$99.95

Museums have come a long way from being a hodge-podge of exotic and bizarre collections or rarified exhibits of Great Art. Golding (museum studies, University of Leicester, UK) puts forth the case for museums being places where one can, respectfully, discover the Other on a basis of equality. The Other can include those of a different race or ethnicity or it can be a misunderstood section of one's own culture. She gives examples of installations that deal with the enslavement of Africans and the subjugation of women, as well as the example of an exhibit in Sweden on HIV/AIDS. Golding argues for the museum as a space for cultural exchange, encouraging interactive exhibits. She also sees it as a force for education especially for at-risk children. Her particular interest is in depictions of race and gender but the underlying theory is applicable to many themes.

AS911 978-1-60692-981-0  
**Role of museums and libraries in strengthening communities.**

Title main entry. Ed. by Tomas V. Alizar.  
*Nova Science Publishers*, ©2009 124 p. \$43.00

This book is a collection of nine Congressional committee transcripts and edited reports from the Congressional Research Service. Most are focused on specific funding issues, and the relationship between funding acquired and services offered by the libraries and museums described. Some chapters include charts, graphs, and illustrations which were a part of the original documents or testimony.

Watch for four stars: ★★★★★ The stars you see at the beginning of some annotations indicate that a previous edition has been cited in *Resources for College Libraries*, *Books for College Libraries*, *3rd ed.*, *Guide to Reference Books*, or other standard references.