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ILS 504  
Exercise 3  
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Sche

➤ Animals

Grzimek, B. (2004). Grzimek's animal life encyclopedia. Detroit, MI: Gale. \$2,507

"This is a revised and updated edition of one of the most authoritative and comprehensive sources on the world's animals. Similar to the first edition written by noted zoologist Bernard Grzimek and published in 1972, the second edition covers all types of animals in geographic areas around the world. It includes high-quality photographs and illustrations and a comprehensive index to all volumes."--"The Top 20 Reference Titles of the Year," American Libraries, May 2004

1. Scope: being a multi-volume encyclopedia, its scope is quite large. It covers the most common animals as well as some of the rarest. It covers everything from mammals to fish, amphibians to birds.
2. Currency: this particular encyclopedia is revised and updated every decade or so. New volumes have been released in between revisions to keep the encyclopedia current about topics such as evolution.
3. Authority of author: Grzimek has been either the author or publisher of this encyclopedia since its original publishing in 1972. It appears that he is well known for being a consistent, reliable source.
4. Ease of use & (5) Arrangement of material: this encyclopedia was easy to use. It has been photos and illustrations to catch the eye and is well organized.
6. Cost: while this encyclopedia is extensive and well-made, the price for the entire set would be crippling for a smaller library. It would be a good addition to a larger library's reference with a more generous budget. There is an e-book version available, though it is still expensive at approximately \$2,000.

Morris, D. (2002). Dogs: the ultimate dictionary of over 1,000 dog breeds. North Pomfret, VT: Trafalgar Square Publishing. \$25

"Renowned animal behaviorist Desmond Morris has created an impressive guide to the history and variety of man's best friend. The entries are accompanied by over 500 line drawings, which express the character of the dogs represented in a way that photographs often fail to capture. Divided into four major categories -- Sporting Dogs, Livestock Dogs, Service Dogs, and Other Dogs -- each division is arranged by the specific purpose for which they were bred, and again by country of origin. For the reader interested in further research, many entries include extensive references. Morris also provides an annotated bibliography of the most important dog reference books from 1576 to the present, and two additional lists of reference books, arranged by region and by breed group. A must for dog lovers."--"The Best of the Best Reference Sources," American Libraries, May 2003

1. Scope: while this book is exclusively about dogs, it is extremely thorough about covering that topic. At approximately 750 pages, it is meticulous in its coverage of the topic.
2. Quality of content: this book seems to be intricately detailed, providing extensive information about individual breeds of dog, the history of dogs in general and specific breeds, and dog behavior. There are illustrations and

pictures throughout the book, as well as numerous reference lists for further research.

3. Accuracy of content & (4) Authority of author: given that the author is an internationally recognized expert on animal behavior, it is safe to say that the content is generally accurate. In addition to the author's expertise, there are bibliographic lists following each chapter with sources to back up and expand on the information given.
5. Arrangement of material: The book is well organized and follows a logical arrangement. The information is easily accessible.
6. Cost: the cost of this book is perhaps the clincher. At an affordable \$25, any library would be able to purchase it. I think it would be especially good for smaller libraries that don't have room or funds, or really need anything more extensive. Honestly, I believe most libraries would be well served to purchase this book. Few libraries would need more information about dogs than this book provides.

Whitfield, P. (Ed.). (1999). *Animals: a Macmillan Illustrated Encyclopedia*. New York: Macmillan Library Reference. \$385

This three-volume reference (a volume devoted each to mammals, birds and reptiles, and amphibians) comprises 2,000 articles organized by taxonomic category of order, family, genus, and species, with an overview providing the characteristics shared by animals within each category. Each entry includes information on size, breeding patterns, feeding habits, intriguing adaptations and behaviors, common and scientific names and conservation status. Detailed original color illustrations by famous wildlife artists enhance explanations of the evolution and diversity of each class in the animal kingdom. The set also features an alphabetical list of animals, addresses of world zoos, conservation organizations, a list of endangered species, and a glossary. - SciTech Book News (01/01/ 2000)

1. Scope: this encyclopedia does cover the animal world well. It is aimed at children, though many adults would learn from it as well. It provides detailed information about animals and also further information about conservation organizations, endangered species, and zoos.
2. Accuracy of content: while this may have been accurate when it was published, it is no longer accurate. It is over ten years old and at the very least, the endangered species list has changed. In all likelihood, so has the information regarding many of the world's zoos and conservation organizations. In addition, due to climate change and further world development, locations where animals were previously located have changed.
3. Authority of author/publisher: to the best of my knowledge, Macmillan has been publishing books for a long time. They are a well-known company. The encyclopedia's editor is also well-known for his work in science.
4. Appropriateness to the audience: this book appears to be accessible to the audience for which it was intended. The many illustrations and pictures catch the eye and draw you in.
5. Cost: while this encyclopedia could be a good edition to a library's children's reference, the price is a bit steep. Macmillan does offer a single-volume edition of this encyclopedia for approximately \$35 and, while it has less depth, seems a better investment, especially considering what is available on the computer or internet.

➤ Native Americans

Champagne, D. (Ed.). (1994). *The Native North American almanac: a reference work on Native North Americans in the United States and Canada*. Detroit, MI: Gale. \$120

Provides a chronology of Native North American history from 1500 to 1992, offers maps of current reservations, discusses historic and current topics, and lists organizations, art markets, and native-owned businesses. –Book Index with Reviews.

1. Scope: this almanac is extensive. It covers not only American Indians but also the Canadian First Nation. Its scope is broad as it covers not only tribe histories but also culture, art, religion, economy, legislation, and many other relevant topics. It also has biographies of prominent Native Americans as well as a chronology that includes major events up to the 1990's.
2. Quality of content, (3) Accuracy of content, & (4) Authority of author: it appears that this almanac is one of the most complete overviews of Native Americans available and should be viewed as an authority in the subject. It was compiled by the director of UCLA's American Indian Study Center and contributed to by over 70 different authorities in the field.
5. Currency: considering that many books treat the subject as one of only historical importance and not one needing current attention, this book does a terrific job. The almanac covers thousands of years of history but does not neglect the current day. While it is not current in regards to the past 16 years, given the amount of material it contains, it is a wonderful resource.

Malinowski, S. (Ed.). (1998). *The Gale encyclopedia of Native American tribes*. Detroit, MI: Gale. \$135

"Although there have been a number of recent reference titles on the history and culture of Native Americans, Gale's encyclopedia offers exceptional scope, clarity, and content. Covering almost 400 North American tribes, each essay contains information on both the historical and contemporary issues for the tribe. All entries begin with an introduction about the tribal roots, historic and current location, population data, and language family. This is followed by segments covering the history, religious beliefs, language, buildings, means of subsistence, clothing, healing practices, customs, oral literature, and current tribal issues. Several black-and-white illustrations and bibliographies for further research are included. A cumulative index of tribes, relevant nonnative peoples, historic dates and battles, treaties, legislation, associations, and religious groups adds value".--"Outstanding Reference Sources: the 1999 Selection of New Titles", *American Libraries*, May 1999.

1. Scope & (2) Quality of content: this encyclopedia provides a wonderful range. It is very specific to its subject, in the sense that it covers almost 400 different North American tribes. It is very detailed, providing information about everything from religion and clothing to buildings, customs, and current events.
3. Ease of use & (4) Arrangement of material: the encyclopedia is set up well. The tribes are separated initially by general geographic area, and then listed alphabetically. Each article has side bars listing vital statistics and essential information, making it easier to locate basic information quickly. There are four volumes and each volume provides an index listing what is present in the other volumes.
5. Cost: Given that there are four volumes of the encyclopedia, each volume is less than \$35. If the library has the funds and the local interest, it is money well

spent. Unlike many other works about Native Americans, it provides extensive details about each tribe individually. I believe it would be a necessity at any academic library.

Whitson, K. (1999). *Native American literatures: an encyclopedia of works, characters, authors, and themes*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. \$75

"This current, affordable title covers Native American poetry, fiction, and prose. It lists more than 300 alphabetically arranged entries, divided into four types: individual authors, individual works, important characters in works, and terms or events of historical importance. Summaries and interpretive information on texts that would be of use to high school and undergraduate students are provided. This volume would be a useful addition to public and academic libraries." -"Outstanding reference sources 2000", *American Libraries*, May 2000.

1. Scope: this book provides a good introduction to Native American literatures.
2. Quality of content: There are holes in the discussion and some reviews have noted individual works that were discussed but the author was not present in the entries for individual authors. It is noted in the encyclopedia that the author is not attempting to write a fully comprehensive review of the literature. The encyclopedia appears to be a good starting place for further research if needed, as it provides bibliographic lists.
3. Authority of author: the author is an associate professor of English at Eureka College in Illinois. The book seems to be a reflection of the author's personal interest in Native American literature.
4. Appropriateness to the audience: the book is aimed at high school and college students, primarily focusing on the books that are commonly assigned reading for classes. The text reads fluidly and clearly and is appropriate for the population the book is aimed at. It should be noted that the author does not review many prolific Native American YA authors. The encyclopedia is aimed at adult literature that is commonly assigned.
5. Cost: given that this is one of the few compilations of Native American literature reviews on the market, it is quite affordable. It is fairly extensive but also accessible to the population it was written for. Larger public libraries and academic libraries would be advised to purchase it.

### ➤ Health

*Encyclopedia of health*. (2003). New York: Marshal Cavendish. \$515

"Sixteen abundantly illustrated, slim volumes comprise this encyclopedia intended for children in, perhaps, fourth grade through middle school. The alphabetically-arranged entries, ranging from a half-page to about six pages, cover how the body works, fitness, diet, disease, hygiene, medicine, and drugs. Feature articles present more in-depth coverage on such topics as accident prevention, beauty care and looking good, the body and its systems, careers in health and medicine, cleanliness, diseases and their prevention, drugs and drug abuse, food and nutrition, infectious diseases, mental health, physical fitness, and preventive medicine. Volume 16 contains a section on first aid, a chronology of landmarks in the history of medicine, a list of health heroes, a glossary of medical terms, thematic and alphabetical indexes, and details about health organizations, websites, and hotlines." - *SciTech Book News* (01/01/ 2003)

1. Scope: this encyclopedia is quite extensive with 16 volumes. It covers not only physical health but mental health as well. It is very broad in its definition of health and attempts to cover everything it deems as falling under the definition. It also had many illustrations and pictures to help with comprehension.

2. Currency: since the encyclopedia is more broad than specific, it is probably more current than a health book that is more focused on providing details. It is only eight years old so it isn't completely outdated. I think it would be current enough with the internet being used as a back-up if needed.

3. Ease of use & (4) Arrangement of material: in reviews, one of the biggest complaints about this book is that, while it has a glossary of medical terms, it has a pronunciation guide completely separate from the glossary. This seems like either laziness or poor planning on the part of the publishing company.

5. Cost: this encyclopedia is rather expensive. It is aimed at children in middle or high school. I don't think it would be beneficial enough to most small libraries to spend the money. Perhaps school libraries might purchase it, but they could probably find something just as useful much less expensive.

Foster, S. (2006). Desk reference to nature's medicine. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society. \$40

"National Geographic's guide to medicinal plants introduces 150 of the most popular plants and herbs used as dietary supplements, among them aloe, ephedra, ginkgo, and peppermint. There are more than 80,000 known species of medicinal plants worldwide, but what this book lacks in comprehensiveness, it makes up for by presenting a wealth of essential information on the history, culture, folklore, and science of traditional and contemporary herbal medicine in all major culture areas of the world. Emphasizing current research and therapeutic uses, the volume provides an A-Z listing of plants by common name. Information about each plant covers a two-page spread and includes traditional and current medicinal uses, common and Latin names, description, habitat, cultivation and preparation, research, and caution alerts. Color photographs, botanical illustrations, and range maps accompany the text, while sidebars offer interesting facts about biology, nomenclature, history, or folklore that add to a better understanding of the plant and its healing properties. Regional essays on the healing plants of Africa, Australia and New Zealand, Central and South America, China, Europe, India, North America, the Middle East, and Oceania provide insightful glimpses into the fascinating range and diversity of local health practices from around the world while also revealing the multifaceted roles that herbalists, healers, and herbal--medicine practitioners play in the lives of their patients. Reference tools include a glossary, Latin name index, and subject index. This attractive and reasonably priced volume is recommended for most public library reference collections." -- Diana Kirby. Booklist, published by the ALA.

1. Scope: this book's scope is fantastic in regards to medicinal plants. There is detailed information regarding 150 of the most common plants used as dietary supplements. While it is limited, it provides extensive information regarding those 150 plants.

2. Accuracy of content & (3) Authority of author/publisher: this book is published by National Geographic Society, which is known worldwide. They are considered to be an authority in their field. The content appears to be presented in an unbiased, objective manner.

4. Ease of use: the book has many photos, maps, and illustrations to draw the eye. It is set up in a manner that lends itself to both browsing and research.

5. Cost: given that the book is published by National Geographic, the asking price is reasonable. It is not prohibitive and most small libraries could easily afford it. It is a balanced, objective review of the most common medicinal plants.

Longe, J. (Ed.). (2009). The Gale encyclopedia of senior health: a guide for seniors and their caregivers. Detroit, MI: Gale. \$710

"Aimed at a general audience concerned with health and aging issues, largely the elderly and their families, presumably, this five-volume encyclopedia contains some 600 entries offering information on how aging affects the body, aging-related diseases, and treatment options (including medications). Half of the entries focus on medical issues specific to aging of the major body systems and diseases. They follow a standard format featuring definition, description, symptoms, treatment options, "questions to ask your doctor," care giver concerns, nutrition/dietetic concerns, additional sources of information, contact information for relevant health organizations, and key terms. The other half of the entries focus on such topics as adaptive devices and equipment, transportation issues, housing options, maintaining mental acuity, the roles of different care givers, nutrition and exercise guidelines, and definitions of different types of medical insurance. The formats for these latter types entries have been standardized as far as possible as well. Articles have been written by doctors, pharmacists, registered nurses, and medical writers and reviewed by professional advisors (but of course readers are advised to still consult with their own doctors). The fifth volume includes a glossary, a list of medical organizations with contact information, and a general index." - SciTech Book News, 03/01/2009

1. Scope: this encyclopedia focuses on everything that falls under the definition of aging. They talk about everything from health insurance to medical issues, to adaptive equipment and medications. It makes a solid attempt at covering everything associated with seniors and aging.
2. Accuracy of content & (3) Authority of author: the articles within this encyclopedia are written by experts in the medical field such as doctors, pharmacists, and nurses and then reviewed by professional advisors
4. Arrangement of material: the encyclopedia is set up in an easy to understand fashion. It is set up alphabetically and each article is self-contained. Each article has definitions of words that the average user might not know, a list of organizations associated with the topic, and also has a bibliographic list for further research.
5. Cost: this encyclopedia is a good resource but is also rather expensive. Smaller libraries would not be able to afford it. Larger public libraries and academic libraries with the funds would have to consider if it is comparable with other resources available electronically.