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Gale Science in Context

Megan Sheffield, *University of South Florida*

attempts to define many of the complex health care terms used not only in the field of medicine, but also in the fields of allied health sciences, nursing, public health, and economics. The dictionary's main strength is its comprehensiveness. It features 2,310 terms used by various national health care systems including those of the US, Australia, Canada, and the UK. The dictionary clearly identifies and concisely defines each term, and cites current literature that uses the term. For example, it describes "Medicare" (a term not unique to the US) as used in the US, Australia, and Canada. The dictionary's greatest weakness is its lack of depth. In describing the US Medicare program, for instance, the entry mentions only Medicare Part A (hospital care benefit) and Part B (medical care). It does not include the two very important components Medicare Part C (managed care) and Part D (drug benefit). Despite its lack of depth in some areas, this dictionary is an extraordinary work, and Culyer should be commended for his effort. This volume will be an important addition to all university libraries. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ Upper-level undergraduates through professionals/practitioners.—*R. M. Mullner, University of Illinois at Chicago*

48-3607   QL750   MARC
Encyclopedia of animal behavior, ed. by Michael D. Breed and Janice Moore. Elsevier, 2010. 3v bibl index ISBN 9780080453330, $720.00

This beautifully put together three-volume encyclopedia comprises 300-plus entries on a diverse range of topics in the contemporary study of animal behavior. Entries run the gamut from topic-focused (e.g., "Aggression and Territoriality," "Visual Signals") to those treating the behavior of a particular species or taxonomic group (e.g., "Bowerbirds," "Zebrafish"). The set also covers applied research, methodological issues, and historical topics, along with emerging areas of research such as animal welfare and the role of behavior in conservation. Most entries are five to eight pages long, and each concludes with a helpful list of recommendations for further reading and, in some cases, relevant Web sites. Breed and Moore have assembled an outstanding array of contributors, including many recognized experts in the field. The writing is crisp, clear, and to the point. Numerous tables and color figures add to the value of the text, and a lengthy glossary is included at the end of each volume. Although the sheer range of entries and the overlap among them could be a bit confusing, a "Subject Classification Index" located at the front of each volume organizes relevant entries under major subject headings. The editors state that their primary audience is advanced undergraduates, graduate students, and professionals looking for an overview of topics in animal behavior, and they have succeeded wonderfully in producing an indispensable reference work for this audience. Those who study animal behavior or teach in this field will want these volumes on their shelf. **Summing Up:** Essential. ★★★★ Lower-level undergraduates through researchers/faculty.—*S. C. Baker, James Madison University*

48-3608   T174   2010-9454 CIP
Encyclopedia of nanoscience and society, ed. by David H. Guston. SAGE Publications, 2010. 2v bibl index afp ISBN 9781412969871, $265.00

In brief paragraphs or short articles, this encyclopedia describes certain terms related to nanoscience. Unfortunately, the two volumes lack a cohesive structure. Primarily the articles are arranged in an alphabetical sequence. However, the choice of topics is somewhat arbitrary; accordingly, readers will have a hard time finding information related to a specific topic. Yes, the index at the end of each volume

or, as an alternative, the so-called "Reader's Guide" at the beginning provides some form of overview, but the choice of terms listed makes the process of finding specific information quite difficult. Several listed terms are so vague that it is hard to imagine any specific information behind them. For example, the term "Democracy" is listed with the following two subentries: "governance and" and "laboratory of." In many parts, the book looks like a thrown-together assembly of topics that are more or less vaguely related to "nano." Most of the articles lack detailed information. No tables or other specific pieces of information are provided, and pictures are largely images of people standing in front of some instrument or building, without any relation to the specific article. The use of pictures or graphs to demonstrate scientific concepts basically does not exist here. Overall the information provided is too little, and the information that is presented is too hard to locate. **Summing Up:** Not recommended.—*H. Giesche, Alfred University*

Ⓒ **48-3609**   [Internet Resource]
Gale Science in Context. Gale, part of Cengage Learning. Contact publisher for pricing.
URL: http://gale.cengage.com/

[Visited Dec'10] *Gale Science in Context* (part of the "Gale in Context" series and formerly known as the *Science Resource Center*) is a broad database that supports high school and undergraduate curricular trends. It provides information sources for science topics in a variety of formats. Users may search for reference sources, images, scholarly journal articles, news and magazine articles, experiments, statistics, video, audio, and Web sites. Coverage begins in 1980 and includes a broad selection of over 400 journals and 150-plus reference sources. This database stands apart from others by including national- and state-level science curriculum standards for middle school and high school. The interface is attractive and clean, with links to many subjects featured on the home page. While this approach adds to the database's aesthetic appeal, some users may miss the search box and more powerful advanced search option in the top right corner, and thus miss out on much of the available content. The search function suggests terms as one types them, and also offers suggestions for misspelled words. The list of search results is easy to navigate with large icons for the type of result (image, video, article, and more); search results can be sorted by date, document title, relevance, and content level. Tools allow search results to be saved, e-mailed, printed, cited (APA/MLA), bookmarked, shared, translated, and downloaded (note that exporting to bibliographic management software is not an option). A search history is also available. The search results themselves usually contain only a few reference sources, Web sites, images, and videos. Newspaper, magazine, and journal articles make up the bulk of the results.

Users who search a broad subject such as "evolution" are taken to a topical page complete with Expert Picks (reference work entries), Related Topics, Videos, and more, instead of a search results page. As previously mentioned, these broad topics are prominently featured on the home page, and include a good mix of subjects (Laws of Motion, Mammals, Max Planck) and current topics in the news that relate to science (Obesity, Prescription Drug Abuse). Other than the issue with the inconspicuous search box, the interface is generally user-friendly and easy to navigate on first encounter. This database presents a novel way to look for media other than journal articles in the sciences. Doing a search for the same topics in databases such as EBSCO's *Academic Search Premier* <http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/academic-search-premier>

or Thomson Reuters' *Web of Science* (CH, Jan'11, 48-2436) tends to bring up more scholarly articles. Given its inclusion of curriculum standards and accessible science information, *Gale Science in Context* is a great resource for science teachers, high school students, and non-majors. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Lower-level undergraduates and general audience.—*K. M. Sheffield, University of South Florida*

48-3610 TX355 2010-13684 CIP
Goldstein, Myrna Chandler. **Healthy foods: fact versus fiction,** by Myrna Chandler Goldstein and Mark A. Goldstein. Greenwood, 2010. 310p bibl index afp ISBN 9780313380969, $55.00

M. C. Goldstein, an independent scholar, and M. A. Goldstein, a physician, explore the research behind 50 supposedly healthful foods. Some have been extensively researched, but little scientific evidence exists for others. Given the vast amount of conflicting information about food that consumers confront on a daily basis, this handy reference will be useful in helping readers identify healthier foods to include in their diet to maintain weight control and prevent medical problems associated with being overweight, e.g., diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. The entries are arranged alphabetically with listings for a variety of healthy foods, including almonds, barley, broccoli, cranberries, flaxseeds, ginger, kale, mushrooms, oats, pineapples, sesame seeds, tomatoes, and walnuts. The emphasis is on documenting the true benefits of the most popular health foods while exposing misconceptions surrounding certain foods. Following each entry is a section titled "References and Resources" that

includes relevant magazines, journals, and newspapers for further reading and another section with Web sites. This ready reference book contains a useful glossary of terms and a solid index. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Lower-level undergraduates and above; general readers.—*M. A. Kascus, Champlain College*

ⓒ 48-3611 [Internet Resource]
Neuroscience Information Framework
URL: http://neuinfo.org/

[Visited Dec'10] *Neuroscience Information Framework* (NIF) is an information-rich resource for the neurosciences that offers online data, materials, and tools. The home page features a simple search box, News and Events, and a link to the entire NIF Blog. Front page tabs link to NIF Tools, Vocabularies, Webinars, Community News, Developers, Tutorials, forums, the wiki, and Recommend a Resource. The NIF Tools page reveals links to a wide range of resources. The NIF Registry is a human created and curated database of vetted electronic resources, including databases and software tools, which are also annotated with the NIF vocabularies. The NIF Web is a customized index built from sites within the registry. The NIF Data Federation features data and images not found by general search engines. This unique data depository serves as a model for other Web sites to provide research data. The NIF Literature link provides searchable access to thousands of scholarly articles.

NeuroLex <http://neurolex.org/> is a wiki-based effort for the NIF community of users to build a strong NIF ontology; it currently features