

tributed. Libraries can increase access to bibliographic information through linkage even though the immediate benefits may vary from utility to utility. The Battelle report can either serve as a motivating force to move ahead or be relegated to the shelves as "one more study." One can only hope at through the informed leadership of those involved—the stakeholders as it were—that the necessary steps will be taken to move toward the goal of linkage of bibliographic utilities.—*Jay K. Lucker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

*Academic American Encyclopedia.* Princeton, N.J.: Areté Publishing Co., 1980. 21V. \$400. LC 79-27430. ISBN 0-933880-00-6.

*Academic American Encyclopedia (AAE)*, a recent contender in the adult general encyclopedia market, appears to have a competitive edge in terms of currency, contemporary biography, and graphics. It is well researched, well written, and a strikingly attractive set. In comparison to similar multi-volume encyclopedias, AAE is noticeably

more compact. Its twenty-one volumes contain 32,000 articles, 16,000 illustrations, and 250,000 index entries (compared, for example, to *Americana's* thirty volumes with approximately 54,000 articles, 22,000 illustrations, and 353,000 index entries). The reduction in bulk has been accomplished without a significant loss of detail. Rather, AAE has attempted to present essential information succinctly, without compromising depth of coverage. In addition, its short-entry format (half the articles are under 500 words) makes it particularly appropriate for library "ready reference" collections.

AAE's intended audience spans junior high through college age and the "inquisitive adult." The text has a reasonable level of technical and scholarly sophistication, but maintains accessibility as well. These parameters place it somewhere in the middle of a complexity/accessibility continuum between *World Book* and *Britannica*, comparable to *Encyclopedia Americana* or *Collier's*. In short, it is neither elementary nor overwhelming.

Areté has amassed a board of advisers and

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2,250 contributors who show a balance of pure and applied scholarship. Although a sizable number of the academic contributors are at assistant and associate professor levels, the institutional affiliations are impressive. A few notable authorities are represented in "Aggression" and "Racism" by Ashley Montagu, "Speech Development" by Roger Brown, "Ernest Hemingway" by Carlos Baker, and "Maps and Mapmaking" by former LC Geography and Map Division Chief Walter W. Ristow. Ninety percent of the articles are written by outside scholars; 75 percent of the entries are signed.

Currency is AAE's forte. Many 1980 events are covered—e.g., the winter Olympics, Zimbabwe's independence, Indira Gandhi's victory. The Iran hostage situation, Love Canal, and Qaddafi's sending troops to Uganda are further examples of current topics. Although statistical data are generally recent (e.g., inflation and U.S. population estimates are from 1979), there are a few surprises such as 1975 data on airports and 1976 figures for labor union membership. Deaths which occurred in early 1980 are reported inconsistently; Jesse Owens, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Tito are covered, while Cecil Beaton, Alfred Hitchcock, William O. Douglas, and Al Capp (Nov. '79) are overlooked.

Another strength is AAE's coverage of contemporary biography; 35 percent of the entries are biographical. Using a group of 100 twentieth-century scholars, writers, celebrities, and public figures sampled from AAE, a cross-check in *Americana* (1980 edition) turned up only 60 percent. AAE alone included such personages as Maya Angelou, Diane Arbus, Jack Anderson, Barry Commoner, Joan Didion, Jack Kerouac, Hans Küng, David Mamet, John McEnroe, and Carl Sagan.

The key to understanding the telescopic approach of *Academic American's* coverage is summed up in one of its stated goals—i.e., AAE attempts to present a "readily intelligible general overview of a subject that does not compel the reader to grasp intricate subtleties or wade through drawn-out historical analysis." Clearly the articles can best serve as aids in definition and as starting places for further investigation. Although AAE's brevity may fail to capture adequately the nuances that only length can bring to a subject,

its format does provide quick and easy access to concise information. One must rely, however, on the index and textual cross-references to maintain the integrity of the overall coverage of a topic.

In contrast to other encyclopedias, there is considerably less emphasis on typical "big-spread" topics such as geography and history. Geographical coverage accounts for less than 15 percent of the entries. For example, while *Americana* devotes more than fifty pages to the USSR's geography, history, and culture, AAE's coverage is only eleven pages for the main geographic entry, with an additional twenty-two pages covering separate but related entries (Russian art, literature, music, and revolutionary history). As stated in the preface, the allocation of disciplinary coverage is roughly 36 percent for humanities and arts, 35 percent for science and technology, 14 percent for social science, 13 percent for geography, and 2 percent for sports and contemporary life.

A more thorough review of specific topics in the major disciplinary groups revealed a consistently high level of attention to essential detail. The entries on American literature cover the necessary literary periods, figures, and movements. Popular as well as traditional genres are discussed. In fact, the coverage of the former is superior to *Americana* and *Britannica*, with more extensive discussions of detective fiction, gothic romance (including the classic type), science fiction, and westerns. More than fifty separate entries for mystery and suspense authors are included, twenty-six for science fiction. In addition, the inclusion of separate title entries for major literary works is a useful feature. Biographical entries for major and well-known writers are abundant. Given the particularly good coverage of contemporary authors, however, the absence of entries for Kenneth Koch, Charles Bukowski, Robert Coover, and Stephen King is surprising.

Science and technology coverage is exceptionally good. Definitions, although cogent, are quite technical and probably accessible only to the more sophisticated reader. AAE's article (and eleven index subheadings) on "Quarks," for example, is much more comprehensive than its rivals; both the research history and hypothesized new quark categories are discussed. Space exploration entries

are heavily illustrated and are authoritative, technical, and detailed. All space missions are reported, including mention of *Voyager I's* trip to Saturn (Nov. 1980) and space-shuttle specifications and plans. Articles on computer technology cover historical and current hardware developments well, but fail to give enough attention to aspects other than "number-crunching," such as computers and communications, database and file management, and the generic "personal computers."

In comparison, social sciences have received short shrift. Standard, curriculum-based topics are covered adequately, but theoretical applications, social implications, and interdisciplinary developments are inconsistently presented. For example, "Aging," "Life span," and "Geriatrics" entries together provide a reasonable discussion of basic topics concerning the elderly population, but the more recent emphasis on social gerontology is missing. Perhaps because psychology is an area with an unusually high number of subdisciplines, its coverage appears unnecessarily scattered and not amena-

ble to AAE's strict short-entry format. Although all branches of psychology receive some consideration, several significant themes are either absent (e.g., social learning theory and differential psychology) or not given sufficient elaboration (e.g., physiological psychology). A minor (but nevertheless misleading) error appears in the entry for "Concept Formation and Attainment": the text refers to learning theorists Clark Hull and Kenneth Smoke (actually Kenneth Spence). The coverage in economics is similarly segmented, although entries for more recent economic terminology (e.g., zero-based budgeting) are welcome.

Bibliographies accompany approximately 40 percent of the entries. Typically, citations are to recent (a large percentage are 1970's imprints), easily accessible, English language materials. Those bibliographies examined contained both standard works and recent critical overviews. The bibliography on "Intelligence," for example, includes a well-respected textbook, a current critical review, and several significant works representing opposing viewpoints on the heredity, race,

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and intelligence controversy (Dobzhansky, Jensen, Kamin, Loehlin).

The disjointedness in some coverage is obviously a function of the short-entry format, which, although useful for factual information, has its limitations for comprehensive study. In addition to relying on the extensive (67,000) textual cross-references, users will find the well-structured index essential in determining appropriate entries and in identifying the network of related entries for a topic. The index serves as a skeleton, the connecting framework, upon which to hang the full body of a discipline. Numerous subheadings appear under major headings, including biographic entries. Map location entries exist for places not included in the text, with longitude and latitude coordinates provided. A few idiosyncrasies are bothersome: internal prepositions are disregarded in alphabetizing multi-word entries, and acronyms are interfiled with other entries (e.g., CB after Cazenovia, N. Y.). Notations for bibliographies, illustrations, and maps are appended to main headings in the index—another useful feature.

AAE is a handsomely produced encyclope-

dia with outstanding use of graphic material. Illustrations and photographs (the majority in full color) are used liberally, yet judiciously, occupying about 33 percent of the available space. The use of cutaway models is particularly effective. The 1,110 maps were newly created by Rand McNally, R. R. Donnelley, and others. All illustrations have been reproduced clearly, without any "bleed-through" of color or print. The sixty-pound nonglare-surfaced paper has a pH value of approximately 7.0–7.5 (compared to approximately 5.0–5.5 for *Americana*) and, therefore, AAE's neutrality should contribute to good wearability.

A unique feature of AAE is the use of computer technology for all phases of production. The publisher expects to revise 20 percent annually. In addition, an AAE videotext system is currently being tested in Columbus, Ohio, via OCLC, Inc.'s "Channel 2000" and an online, full-text searchable version of AAE will be accessible through the New York Times Information Service sometime in the first quarter of 1982.

While some users may find the dictionary-like format disconcerting, AAE serves superbly as a quick reference tool. *Academic American* is rich in detail and is excitingly attractive, thus reaffirming that less can be more.—Wendy Pradt Lougee, *Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. With the assistance of the Reference Department staff.*

Higham, Norman. *The Library in the University: Observations on a Service*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1980. 205p. LC 80-51340. ISBN 0-86531-053-X.

In the author's words, his purpose is "to examine some of the services we offer and the procedures we carry out. . . . The book is designed for reading and questioning, rather than for study and note taking." Every aspect of university library work is covered, with chapters devoted to the standard elements of finance selection, acquisition, cataloging, services, staffing, interlending, storage, library buildings, and cooperation. The author's experience is in British libraries, but the fundamentals he covers are universal.

As thorough as he is, the author hews to a fundamental description of university library operations and a delineation of the issues and conflicts we face. In the main, the author's

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