Pocketful of Poultry (Review)

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Compact size and a higher quotient of straightforwardness will probably make this book the first choice of many students and other users, even if they suspect they might later have to turn to one of the larger, conventional sources. The book opens with a chapter on ethics and avoiding plagiarism, followed by one on research, one on writing a research paper, and a chapter on each of the four major styles—MLA, APA, CMS, and CSE. Everything is clearly explained, and the writers didn’t shy away from answering “dumb” questions of the kind that invariably arise in the minds of first-timers. Someone should have written this book years ago. —Harold Cordry

Pocketful of Poultry. By Carol Ekarius. 2007. 272p. illust., Storey, paper, $10.95 (9781580176774). 636.5. Hundreds of chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys are beautifully illustrated in this field guide. Along with the color photos of each bird are facts on the breed history, size, features, place of origin, special qualities, and conservation status. Fascinating facts and detailed photos portraying poultry features are strewn throughout the guide. The chicken section classifies each breed as ornamental, laying, or meat variety. A glossary of the conservation status terms and several pages describing the color varieties of poultry complete the book. —Sue Polanka

The United States as Depicted on Its Postage Stamps. By Steve Rajtar. 2007. 392p. illust., McFarland, $75 (9780786429493). 769.56. This volume contains more than 400 descriptions of U.S. postage stamps that depict some aspect of each state’s history, architecture, significant historical events, anniversary, flora and fauna, etc. Arranged alphabetically by state each entry provides historical background about the illustration, date of issue, the name of the designer, and philatelic details. The book contains almost 900 photos, including 449 beautifully reproduced color illustrations. Although the index offers good access to personal names and places, a subject/ thematic index would have been especially useful. This unique and diligently researched work would interest stamp collectors. —Donald Altschiller

The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Volume 8; Environment. Ed. by Martin Melosi and Charles Reagan Wilson. 2007. 293p. illust., Univ. of North Carolina, paper, $19.96 (9780807831700); $49 (9780807858561). 975.003. Another volume in the topical reconfiguration of the single-volume New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture (1989). The first part of the volume contains overviews on broad topics, from Animals to Wetlands. The second part has briefer entries on more specific topics, from Air-conditioning to Wilson Dam. Although most of the nearly 120 entries appeared in the original encyclopedia, a number of them are new. Others have been updated. For example, several entries now make mention of the environmental impact of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. —Mary Ellen Quinn


Not a ready-reference, dictionary-type tool, this is a thorough overview of the various forms of local government. It discusses the strengths and weaknesses of cities, counties, regional structures, school districts, and community associations—and variations within each (such as traditional commission, mayor-council, and council-manager models). The roles of elected and appointed officials are explored, as are a variety of issues facing localities today: privatization, strategic planning, city-county consolidation, etc. The 45 brief chapters are reprints of articles and reports prepared from the 1970s through the 1990s for publications like National Civic Review and Public Management. —Sally Jane

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Professional Reading

Babies in the Library! By Jane Marino. 2007. 149p. Scarecrow, paper, $32 (978080690445). 027.62. Marino has put together a wonderful handbook for children’s librarians who want to do programming for their youngest patrons, those she refers to as “prewalkers” and “walkers.” She has provided five programs for each group, with rhymes, songs, and books. In some cases the words for the songs and rhymes are original; others she has adapted. She gives suggestions and rationales for use, along with directions for movement. The books listed