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RGE Monitor

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Reference

text for some journals; and in *Wilson's Social Sciences Full Text* (CH, Jul'00, 37-6047), so there is little added value if an institution already subscribes to those databases. **Summing Up:** Not recommended.—*W. J. Breitbart, California State University—Fullerton*

45-5355 HV553 2007-3666 CIP
Pampel, Fred C. **Disaster response.** Facts On File, 2008. 298p index afp
ISBN 9780816070237, \$45.00

This newest entry in the "Library in a Book" series serves as a tool for analyzing response to catastrophic events. Pampel (Univ. of Colorado at Boulder) addresses the definition of disaster and traces significant US disasters through Hurricane Katrina of 2005. He critiques the federal government's response to these events, particularly after the formation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 1979. Pampel notes that FEMA was ill prepared to cope with the disasters it faced, partly due to bureaucratic mismanagement and partly due to underfunding. He outlines steps to effective disaster response and discusses how this protocol often has been ignored. In addition, this volume analyzes the law as it relates to disaster response. It includes a biographical listing, tips for researching disaster response, a list of organizations and agencies, and numerous appendices. One of the most useful features is an extensive, detailed bibliography of over 61 pages. However, the numerous Web pages cited will certainly change in a few years time, dating the source. Overall, this serves as an excellent introduction to disaster response and should be part of public and undergraduate libraries' general collections. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and general readers.—*C. A. Sproles, University of Louisville*

45-5356 BR305 2007-46362 CIP
Reformation and early modern Europe: a guide to research, ed. by David M. Whitford. Truman State, 2008. 456p afp (Sixteenth century essays & studies, 79) ISBN 9781931112727, \$52.00

As the third guide to Reformation literature and related topics published in a quarter century, this work reflects the displacement of older historiographic trends by new ones, and the emergence of digital resources that have made some types of research easier. Essays reflect both developments, although some lean more to historiography and others to bibliography. The book is divided into "Confessional Trends," "Regional Trends," and "Social and Cultural Trends." Absent is any essay covering the Reformation as a transdenominational and trans-European phenomenon. Perhaps the move to lived experience and microhistory noted by more than one contributor helps explain this omission. Expanded geographic coverage gives more attention to central Europe as a whole, but topics once covered, like cities in the Reformation and pamphlet warfare, have been omitted, possibly because of limited space. That said, the essays are solid and useful. Some address phenomena like witchcraft, recent studies of which are fruitful and full of new insights.

The volume covers gender in greater depth than in previous guides. Even long-established literatures, like those covering Lutheranism and the Reformed tradition, are the subjects of new work expanding the boundaries of inquiry. The Reformation no longer appears as the preserve of just a few giants. The Radicals too receive new attention, and the book addresses the attempt to find a new term to replace Counter-Reformation when describing Catholic thought and practice in this period. A very useful article examines the vexing question of how to understand "popular religion." All essays conclude with extensive bibliographies (most incorporate online resources). The work lacks an index; a brief index of major concepts covered by multiple contributors would have been useful. Nevertheless, this is a worthwhile road map to a very lively field of research and teaching. **Summing Up** Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates through faculty/researchers.—*T. M. Izbicki, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey*

E 45-5357 [Internet Resource]
RGE Monitor. Roubini Global Economics. Annual academic subscription for unrestricted access is \$5,000.00.
URL: <http://www.rgemonitor.com/>

[Visited Mar'08] *RGE Monitor* (review of previous version, CH, Nov'02, 40Sup-0423) is a current awareness service covering global economic and geostrategic issues. Maintained by renowned economist and prolific writer Roubini (New York Univ.), *RGE Monitor* provides aggregated coverage of news, research, analysis, and data related to a variety of global economic issues. The information comes from blogs and Internet sites, as well as proprietary research, including selective working papers from the National Bureau of Economic Research and the Centre for Economic Policy Research. Updated daily, the site includes an archive dating back to 1998. The service also provides access to writing briefs, teleconferences, and Webcasts prepared by Roubini and his team of experts.

This well-organized, easy-to-navigate site offers a simple search box; it loads quickly, despite the high volume of information available. The main sections are Spotlight on Top Issues, Daily Digest, RGE Content, Working Paper Series, and Tools. A navigation panel on the left is consistent throughout the site, allowing browsing by region (five main regions with links to 36 countries) or topic (five main topics with links to 35 subtopics). The panel features separate links for RGE Content and Blog Aggregators. RGE Content offers original writings, Webcasts, blogs, and other RGE publications. Blog Aggregators consists of the best information, as selected by RGE staff, in six specific areas: macroeconomics, politics, finance, Asian economics, law and economics, and housing. The site also has administrative services (e.g., About Us, Membership, FAQ).

Access options include subscriptions for individuals, site licenses for organizations, and discounted prices for educational and nonprofit users. Subscribers may sign up for a daily e-mail digest on topics of their choice. Aside from *RGE Monitor's* original research, the other material may be found in business databases such as *Dow Jones Factiva* <<http://factiva.com/>>, *LexisNexis Academic* (CH, Jun'08, 45-5305), *ABI/INFORM* (CH, Sep'06, 44-0039), and *Business Source Complete* (CH, Feb'07, 44-3035). Hence libraries that already subscribe to one or more of these databases may see this service as an unnecessary expense. However, *RGE Monitor* provides a useful teaching preparation tool for faculty, and it simplifies the process of keeping up with current US and international economic issues. The coverage of the US housing slump and fiscal stimulus/tax rebates, for instance, is excellent. Practitioners (business strategists, investors, researchers, policy makers, and regulators) and corporations that do not have access to other databases would benefit greatly from this service. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Lower- and upper-level undergraduates, graduate students, faculty/researchers, and professionals/practitioners.—*L. Camacho, Brigham Young University*

E 45-5358 [Internet Resource]
Small Business Resource Center. Gale, part of Cengage Learning.
Contact publisher for pricing.
URL: <http://gale.cengage.com/>

[Visited Mar'08] *Small Business Resource Center* (SBRC) is a compilation of very practical business information in full text, designed to help entrepreneurs open and operate small businesses. It includes materials on all aspects of business, providing basic content from Gale reference tools such as the "Business Plans Handbook" series (e.g., *Business Plans Handbook*, CH, Jun'95, 32-5742); *Encyclopedia of Management*, ed. by M. M. Helms (5th ed., CH, Aug'07, 44-6592); and C. E. Bamford and G. D. Bruton's *Small Business Management: A Framework for Success* (2006). The Gale content is supplemented by titles published by John Wiley and a variety of mostly general and trade periodicals. The database is very searchable, and the interfaces are intuitive. It provides typical search capabilities, along with the capacity to access predefined search topics: Business Topics and Business Types (which use tabs for Business Plans, Articles, Overviews, Directories, and Websites); Sample Business Plans; and How To, a feature that guides users directly to relevant information under topics such as "How to Write a Business Plan."

SBRC is a useful database, but problematic for college and university libraries. Its strength is in the intuitive nature of its search engine; however, the sources it taps are similar to the trade material found in EBSCO's *Academic Search Premier* <<http://www.ebscohost.com/>> and various ProQuest databases, but without the scholarly content found there. The content is