Current and accurate market research and industry information are necessary for both academic and corporate libraries. The Encyclopedia of American Industries (EAI), a new publication by Gale, contributes a great deal to our knowledge of this subject.

The industries listed in the EAI are arranged by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code and divided into two volumes: volume 1, manufacturing industries, and volume 2, non-manufacturing and service industries. Each SIC industry is then explained using well-written essays divided into several features: an explanation of what the code includes; an "industry snapshot" that can be used as a ready-reference source; the "organization and structure of the industry"; "background and development," which includes its history; "industry leaders"; and current conditions," which can be used for employment research.

The essays contain in-depth studies of the industries. They rely less on statistics (although there are a number of charts and graphs) than on detailed analysis of individual sectors. The essays are outstanding and indicate a great deal of investigation. They track the history of the industries from their earliest inception to the present (which is around 1992-1993). For example, the motion picture industry section begins by discussing The Great Train Robbery (1903), which is considered to be the first feature film....