

Reviews

When Women Didn't Count: The Chronic Mismeasurement and Marginalization of American Women in Federal Statistics. Robert Lopresti. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2017.

How many women were the head of their households in 1930? How many were single mothers in 1890? Librarians have a desire to answer every question that comes their way, but some questions have no accurate answers. This is especially true of government statistics on women, as Lopresti demonstrates this beautifully in *When Women Didn't Count*. His treatise on the subject is enlightening, delving into the inconsistencies in how women were considered (or ignored) across different government surveys. Most infuriating are the times when results were labeled as unreliable or flat-out wrong because the answers did not meet expectations. As a result, we can never truly know how many women bucked expectations, finding work in the unlikeliest of professions—for a woman, that is. This book is an important work that sheds light on the sexism that permeates our statistics, even as recently as the last decade. Lopresti is good at keeping a neutral, informational tone while also explaining the bias that makes some of these statistics questionable. The book is organized by various topics, such as demographics, women at home, and concepts of employment, with each chapter addressing a subtopic like women factory workers or contraception. This makes the book easy to navigate without disrupting the natural flow from one chapter to the next.—*Sonnet Ireland (sonnet@stpl.us), Reference Librarian, St. Tammany Parish Library, Mandeville, Louisiana*

The Battle Behind Bars: Navy and Marine POWs in the Vietnam War. Stuart I. Rochester. Washington, DC: Naval History & Heritage Command, Department of the Navy, 2010.

The Battle Behind Bars, by Stuart I. Rochester, offers an overview of the prisoner-of-war situation during the Vietnam War, 1961–75. Available in both print and e-book formats, this book immediately pulls the reader into the world of the POW. In a mere sixty-eight pages, the chronicle of captivity, the resistance efforts, types of punishment, and various coping techniques are addressed thoroughly. Stories are shared to educate and engage.

POW treatment differed depending on where a soldier was captured. Soldiers captured in the south seemed to fare worse than those who were “housed” in the north in Hanoi. Readers may remember hearing about the prison POWs named “Hanoi Hilton.” A sense of humor helped many of them cope, naming other compounds “Heartbreak Hotel,” “New Guy Village,” “Little Vegas,” and “Camp Unity.”

Throughout the course of the war, the Naval and Marine commands learned how to better train their troops in the event of capture. No amount of preparation can prepare someone for the level of torture and punishment meted out to the troops; however, ingenious methods of communicating with other POWs were used, including coughing, sneezing, tapping, etc. Unfortunately the resistance inevitably led to further punishment. Rochester describes the torture in enough detail to only partly realize the extent of terror experienced by the soldiers.

The road back home and life after capture are briefly discussed. There remains a question of the large amount of US personnel who went missing in action. As of the writing of this report, there were still 1,723 Americans still unaccounted for from US involvement in Vietnam.

This short report is packed full of engaging stories of human perseverance, struggle, and honor. Suggested readings are included to lead the reader to further information. Anyone from high school and up interested in learning more about the Vietnam War and specifically the very real POWs from the war would find this an interesting read!—*Rochelle Hunt Krueger (kruegerr@unk.edu), University of Nebraska at Kearney*

The Data Librarian's Handbook. Robin Rice and John Southall. London: Facet, 2016.

The Data Librarian's Handbook begins with an exploration of the need for data librarianship over time, and the evolution that the role has experienced. Highlights of that history include exploring the differences between initial approaches to data curation and preservation by nations, funding agencies, and proprietors of the data. Training and other forms of engagement with data are also highlighted. As the text continues, the very nature of how data is viewed, studied, and aggregated is reviewed and challenged to provide context for the variations in data requests or even data needs. The authors highlight the fact that many consultations reveal a need for data, which was unanticipated and considered inconsistent with their discipline. Questions of ownership, disposition of data, management of data,

the need to describe data so it may be shared and best understood, and types of data are also explored. Then the work of the data librarian is explored in earnest. From promotion of data literacy (basic statistical literacy to data visualization to data identification to data creation) to data promotion and access to research data management, the role of the data librarian is established and then analyzed. Other topics explored in this text include the ins and outs of data repositories; an exploration and discussion of sensitive data and how to ensure they are best monitored and curated; the impact that a discipline's history may have on their reception of innovation in the area of data curation; and finally, it explores open access and its impact on data policy.

This book is easy to understand and well written. The authors give context for all of the items they decided to include in

the book and it would be very easy to see how a practitioner may utilize this book to gain familiarity with these topics. At the end of each chapter, the reader is provided key points and reflective questions. As a point of personal preference, I wish either the key points or the reflective questions had been placed at the beginning of the chapter. Sandwiching the chapter between the takeaway and the reflective question would give the reader a guidepost for how to proceed through the chapter and allow the reader to also consider their own questions in addition to the ones provided.

The authors also recommend a list of resources throughout each chapter; I believe a list either at the end of the chapter or at the end of the book would also be helpful for those who have the physical book. This provides the reader the chance to review these links without

having to flip back through the chapter to locate them.

The authors attempt to incorporate sources from the United States, Australia, and Canada, but most sources are from the United Kingdom, where the authors are located. This practice may have been due to their location or to a significant portion of resources filtering through the United Kingdom.

The literature in this field is growing, and I believe this growth is timely as continuously more academic libraries are engaging in data librarianship and, as the authors were right to point out, it is more evident in the role of librarians. This text is a superb addition to the literature and raises questions we should consider whether or not we serve as data librarians.—*Kenya Flash (kenya.flash@yale.edu), Librarian for Political Science, Global Affairs, and Government Information, Yale University*