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# Sources

## Reference Books

Tammy J. Eschedor Voelker, Editor

<i>African American History Day by Day: A Reference Guide to Events</i> . . . . .	348
<i>Constitutional Amendments: An Encyclopedia of the People, Procedures, Politics, Primary Documents and Campaigns for the 27 Amendments to the Constitution of the United States</i> . . . . .	348
<i>Debates on U.S. Health Care</i> . . . . .	349
<i>Debates on U.S. Immigration</i> . . . . .	349
<i>Encyclopedia of Diversity in Education</i> . . . . .	350
<i>The Encyclopedia of Housing, 2nd ed.</i> . . . . .	351
<i>Encyclopedia of Terrorism</i> . . . . .	351
<i>Encyclopedia of the U.S. Census: From the Constitution to the American Community Survey (ACS)</i> . . . . .	352
<i>Encyclopedia of Video Games: The Culture, Technology, and Art of Gaming</i> . . . . .	353
<i>First Amendment Rights: An Encyclopedia</i> . . . . .	353
<i>Guide to U.S. Foreign Policy: A Diplomatic History</i> . . . . .	354
<i>Sexual Violence and Abuse: An Encyclopedia of Prevention, Impacts, and Recovery</i> . . . . .	354
<i>This is Who We Were: A Companion to the 1940 Census</i> . . . . .	355
<i>World War II: The Essential Reference Guide</i> . . . . .	355

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Correspondence concerning these reviews should be addressed to "Reference Sources" editor, Tammy Eschedor Voelker, Humanities Librarian, Kent State University, 1125 Risman Dr., Kent OH 44242; e-mail: tvoelker@kent.edu

*African American History Day by Day: A Reference Guide to Events*. By Karen Juanita Carrillo. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2012. 420p. acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-59884-360-6). E-book available (978-1-59884-361-3), call for pricing.

The format of going through the calendar and noting significant events that occurred on each date seems of little use for reference service, but it can make for interesting browsing and perhaps as a tool for teachers who use the calendar as an entry point for helping young people discover history. For those who value such projects, Carrillo's guide will be welcome.

As with similar one-volume works, the entries are single paragraphs, sometimes very short, but there is a lead entry for each date to which Carrillo, who is an award-winning journalist, adds interesting scholarly touches. There is an extensive, sourced quotation related to the entry, and then bibliographic information for books and websites is provided for those who want to research further. There are no illustrations.

The entries are varied, mostly a sentence or two about an event—often a birth—although some of the events are deemed more significant than others. The birth of author James Baldwin is the lead entry for August 2, but there is also a long paragraph about William Still using his home for the Underground Railroad.

The book is indexed and includes a twenty-two-page bibliography, but the latter is organized alphabetically by the name of the author. A subject grouping in the bibliography would have been more helpful.

It's interesting to compare Carrillo's book to Phil Konstantin's *This Day in North American Indian History: Important Dates in the History of North America's Native Peoples for Every Calendar Day* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008). The latter has far more entries and some impressive appendices, but the entries are shorter and lack the special qualities of Carrillo's lead entries.

Another comparison worth noting is to Jay Warner's *This Day in Black Music History* (Hal Leonard Corp., 2006), which only covers the past sixty years of its topic and in a breezy style with photographs. Carrillo's lead entries regarding African American music go back much further and are more substantive.

*African American History Day by Day* will enhance collections in large libraries, school libraries, and in libraries that specialize in the subject, but it is not essential.—Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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*Constitutional Amendments: An Encyclopedia of the People, Procedures, Politics, Primary Documents and Campaigns for the 27 Amendments to the Constitution of the United States*. By Mark Grossman. Amenia, NY: Grey House, 2012. 2 vols. \$225 (ISBN: 978-1-59237-999-6). E-book available (978-1-61925-003-1), call for pricing.

It should be stated from the onset that the subtitle's description of Mark Grossman's *Constitutional Amendments* as

an “encyclopedia” is a bit of a misnomer. In both form and substance, this work can be more accurately described as a “sourcebook,” and it is for these same reasons that it stands as a unique and much richer reference work.

Rather than an alphabetically organized collection of summaries of the various names, events, and other keyword topics associated with the US constitutional amendments as presented in the widely held work *Encyclopedia of Constitutional Amendments, Proposed Amendments, and Amending Issues*, 3rd ed. (ABC-CLIO, 2010), Grossman offers a chronological and detailed look at each of the twenty-seven amendments spread over eighteen chapters (the Bill of Rights is covered in a single chapter) in two volumes. He states bluntly in the foreword that his goal is to help promote the Constitution’s status as a document “to be celebrated,” so if you’re looking for a reference work which includes a well-rounded critical analysis of the constitution in the vein of Charles A. Beard or Howard Zinn, this is not that work. As previously mentioned, this work’s strength resides not in its commentary but rather in its bringing together disparate original source documents in one place. Naturally each chapter contains an introduction, but as is typical of most chapters, chapter four on the Thirteenth Amendment collects a transcription of the text of the congressional resolution banning slavery as well as a scanned image of the original along with excerpts of debate from the *Congressional Globe*, reprints of contemporaneous news accounts and subsequent secondary sources, succinct biographies of four non-obvious but nonetheless key individuals (think James Mitchell Ashley and James Falconer Wilson), and a concluding historical snapshot which attempts to contextualize the country’s social and political terrain at that moment in time.

The work is further enhanced by three appendices that focus on the process of amending the constitution, the ratification process, and finally an elaboration of six proposed constitutional amendments that came close to ratification but ultimately failed for a variety of reasons. An index is provided for those who prefer to utilize the work in a more traditionally encyclopedic fashion. This work is recommended for public libraries and undergraduate university library collections.—Chris G. Hudson, *Serials & Acquisitions Librarian, MacMillan Law Library, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia*

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***Debates on U.S. Health Care.*** Ed. By Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld, Wendy E. Parmet, and Mark A. Zezza. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2012. 569p. \$115 (ISBN: 978-1-4129-9602-0).

The Health Care Reform Act of 2010 brought many challenges that complicated, rather than clarified, the debate of the best solutions to health care. This complex issue has Americans struggling with regard to economic, fiscal, and monetary policy as they relate to philosophical approaches to the health care problem. *Debates on U.S. Health Care* uses essays to provide readers with views on both sides of the debates regarding the complex issues of the Health Care Reform Act.

*Debates on U.S. Health Care* is divided into three main sections, each with its own editor. Editors and contributors are very experienced in the field. The three main sections are “Philosophical, political, and legal debates” ; “Economic and fiscal debates” ; and “Quality debates.” Each of these main sections is then divided into subsections with multiple topics for debate. Each entry follows the same format. They begin with a brief point, counterpoint, and introduction. The introduction presents the broad theme and also provides historical background. The point and counterpoint are then expanded upon. The point and counterpoint taken together give the reader a well-rounded sense of the issue in its entirety. A brief conclusion and references are provided at the end of each side of the debate. A comprehensive index is included at the end of the volume. Each debate is well thought out with strong arguments for both sides. Issues are laid out in a very easy to understand manner.

I compared this source to two similar sources that each focused on debates in health care issues. The first is CQ Researcher’s *Health Care Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher* (CQ Press, 2010). This volume also provides background and historical context along with the “Current Situation” and an “Outlook.” Two experts provide pro versus con debates on an issue. One feature this volume has that *Debates on U.S. Health Care* does not is a chronology of key debates.

The second comparison source is Gary Taylor and Helen Hawley’s *Key Debates in Health Care* (Open University Press, 2010). This volume focuses on debates that might resonate more with front line health care workers. This volume does not solely focus on health care in the United States.

In my opinion, *Debates on U.S. Health Care* is a better source than the two comparison sources. The material is organized in a clear way, and the issues are debated in a more organized fashion. The debates go into greater detail. *Debates on U.S. Health Care* is a good source for gaining an understanding of both sides of a health care issue. This source would be a good addition to an undergraduate reference collection with programs in sociology, public health, public policy, law, and related programs.—Mina Chercourt, *Unit Leader, Database Maintenance, Grasselli Library & Breen Learning Center, John Carroll University, University Hts., Ohio*

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***Debates on U.S. Immigration.*** Ed. by Judith Gans, Elaine M. Replogle, and Daniel J. Tichenor. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2013. 624p. \$125 (ISBN: 978-1-4129-9601-3).

Despite the often repeated proclamation that we are a nation of immigrants, immigration has been, and continues to be, a politically charged issue in the United States. As such, it inspires intense debate. The stated goal of *Debates on U.S. Immigration* is “to keep students, researchers, and other interested readers informed and up-to-date on the most contentious aspects of U.S. immigration policy” (xvii). While this is a respectable ambition, it is not within the capability of a printed, or electronic, publication that is written at a specific point in time and not updated regularly. Had the