

Reference Books

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Editor

Almanac of the 50 States: Basic Data Profiles with Comparative Tables. State and Municipal Profiles Series. Woodside, Calif.: Information Publications, 2007. 490p. \$85 (ISBN 978-0-931845-96-3).

This single-volume work pulls together information from the Census Bureau as well as from a number of sources including the *City and County Data Book* (www.census.gov/statab/www/ccdb.html), the *State and Metropolitan Area Data Book, 2006* (www.census.gov/compendia/smadb/SMADBstate.html), trade and professional associations, and individual state governments. The work is presented in two parts. Part I contains individual profiles for the fifty states plus the District of Columbia and a summary for the United States as a whole. Each of these uniform individual entries is eight pages long and begins with a short summary of the state (governor, capital city, largest city, date admitted to the union, etc.). The body of each entry contains information about thirteen areas that the editors deemed most interesting to the broadest number of people and includes topics such as geography and environment; demographics and characteristics of the population; vital statistics and health; education; social insurance and welfare; housing and construction; government and elections; government finance; crime; labor and income; economy and business; communication, energy, and transportation. The much smaller second section contains comparative data tables on ninety-two different topics such as motor vehicle deaths and gasoline consumption for the fifty states and District of Columbia. These tables are especially helpful because they give rankings for the states. For example, Alaska ranks thirteenth in the nation in teacher salaries and fifty-first in number of bankruptcy cases.

Some of this information is readily available in other sources, such as the Web site for the USDA Economic Research Service, which includes state fact sheets (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/states.htm>). But this work pulls together a great deal of information and makes it easily accessible to patrons. There really is nothing that is this extensive. The book would be useful in high school, university, and public libraries (even though the bottom of every page chillingly states that photocopying is prohibited).—*Dona J. Helmer, Librarian, Anchorage School District, Anchorage, Alaska*

Analyses of Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Music, 1940–2000. By D. J. Hoek. MLA Index and Bibliography Series. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press and Music Library Association, 2007. 347p. \$75. (ISBN 0-8108-5887-8).

Almost two decades ago, a professor of music theory told this reviewer how he chuckled when thinking of music stu-

dents busily working on music analyses, unaware that *right next door in the library*, there was a book that could help them find all the answers. What was that illuminating text? It was Arthur Wenk's *Analyses of Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Music, 1940–1985* (Music Library Association, 1987). Well-known and well-used by music scholars since its first iteration in 1975, it was an essential reference book for any music collection. This most recent update by D. J. Hoek, providing access to analyses through 2000, will undoubtedly be welcomed by music researchers, librarians, and students alike.

In this publication, which subsumes Wenk's 1987 work, Hoek provides the researcher with citations for "writings through 2000 that address form, harmony, melody, rhythm, and other structural aspects of music by composers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries" (xxv). This index is not limited to journal literature or the English language; citations to *Festschriften*, books, and dissertations are included, and entries additionally represent German, Italian, French, and other European musical scholarship. The book is efficiently organized—alphabetically by composer—and easy to use. While one might question the value of a print index in this digital age, the speed with which reliable, relevant information can be retrieved from this book will convince any skeptic.

What is generally not included here, as Hoek states in his introduction, are analyses of music outside of the western art tradition, such as popular music, jazz, and world music. Nevertheless, this resource is, as was its predecessors, an essential reference tool for any collection supporting undergraduate or graduate music programs. Highly recommended.—*Kristina Lampe Shanton, Music Librarian, Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York*

Asian Americans: A Statistical Sourcebook. American Profiles Series. Woodside, Calif.: Information Publications, 2007. 304p. \$79 (ISBN 978-0-929960-43-2).

The goal of the second annual edition of *Asian Americans: A Statistical Sourcebook* is to serve as a one-volume reference source for statistics about this American ethnic group. According to the publisher, it is "not intended as a detailed research tool, but rather as a ready reference source, the first place to turn" (xix). The volume is one of Information Publications' American Profile Series, which includes other volumes of statistical compilations about Black Americans and Hispanic Americans.

A lengthy introduction discusses the intent of the book, defines the term Asian (as self-identified), and suggests the intended audience (anyone interested in these particular statistics). The statistics themselves are all from the U.S. federal government: the various censuses, the American Community Survey, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Labor, *Statistical Abstract of the United States* (U.S. G.P.O., 1879–present), and some census estimates. There are two categories of sources: complete count data and survey information.

SOURCES

After a detailed table of contents that lists each statistical table, the 185 tables are organized into eight chapters. These cover demographics and social characteristics; vital statistics and health; education; government and elections; crime, law enforcement and corrections; labor employment and unemployment; earnings, income, poverty and wealth; and special topics such as Asian-owned firms, consumer expenditures, and mobility. Each table concludes with the name of the source, including the URL if applicable, table number in the source, and unit of measure. The introduction notes that the user should pay particular attention to these notes and unit measures. Most of the data are from 2006 and before, although the table counting prisoners under sentence of death is a 2007 number. There are also population projections to 2010, projected fertility rates to 2010, and projections of labor force participation to 2012. Most of the tables compare numbers of white Americans with those of the Asian populations. Some of the tables count each ethnic group within the Asian American population but these are rare.

A fourteen page glossary and a seven page index conclude the book. The glossary offers lengthy and precise definitions of the specialized terms used by the government when taking statistics. There are also many “see” references, which help the user find explanations of precise pieces of data. The index points to table numbers rather than page numbers and tends to use general words such as “children” or “cancer” with several subheadings following.

This volume should be very useful as a ready reference source. Although every statistic in here can be found through a search in census and agency online databases, this would be handy for libraries that often need statistics on Asian Americans. The glossary itself is very helpful because of its precise definitions of exactly what is being counted. The price (\$79), is reasonable enough, although those librarians adept at searching government publications online will probably not wish to buy it. A search of WorldCat did not find other books like this one.—*Carol Krismann, Head, William M. White Business Library, University of Colorado, Boulder*

Black American Military Leaders: A Biographical Dictionary. By Walter L. Hawkins. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2007. 559p. alkaline \$95 (ISBN 978-0-7864-2486-3).

From Salem Poor, who distinguished himself at the Battle of Bunker Hill, to Colin Powell, no less distinguished as a Vietnam War veteran and the nation's first black man to be appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, African Americans have played an important role in the history of the U.S. armed forces, both in war and peace. That their contributions have generally not been recognized is an oversight that the present volume aims to rectify. Indeed, the author states forthrightly that, “The purpose of this book is to inform the public of the significant impact these black individuals have had on the United States military” (1).

Although the title suggests a focus on the officer corps, coverage is almost evenly divided between the “brass hats”

and enlisted personnel. This is therefore a survey of black American military figures, with soldiers and sailors on an even playing field with generals and admirals. The 1,105 entries follow a standard format of listing the individual's name, rank, and branch of service, which together act as a heading. The heading is followed by a rundown of military training courses attended, duty stations assigned, promotions awarded, and other highlights of each career profiled. This approach reveals a major weakness, for little to no analysis accompanies the unvarnished facts. The entries tell the reader the “what” but neglect to include the “why” and “how.” For that reason, the “significant impact” that the author professes to show the reader is all too often missing in action. A case in point is the following entry: “Bayless, Harvey. Major—Air Force. Harvey Bayless was inducted into the armed services in May 1943. Serving in the 96th Service Group in support of the 332nd Fighter Group in Italy in 1944, he received a field promotion to Second Lieutenant and served as a Communications Maintenance Officer. He was honorably discharged in 1946” (30). Properly, this is more a catalog of experiences than a biographical sketch. The reader is left to ask, who are these people and why are they in this book?

Other aspects of this work are also problematic. The black and white photographs, while numerous, are generally poorly reproduced. In fact, many appear to be downloads from Web sites and are so blurry as to be useless. Although some historical figures are included, the majority of entries concern twentieth-century personalities, especially those still on active duty. This results in page after page of obscure contemporary commanders and non-coms while deserving individuals of the past are left out. Lastly, no account is given of where Sergeant Major Hawkins (yes, the author and career army man is included in the book) obtained his information, as there are no sources cited. Therefore the veracity of the material is open to question and the reader is left to infer that the author relied heavily on “the many people in the Department of Defense who performed valuable services in the preparation of this book” (vii).

Collection development librarians would better serve their patrons by selecting *African Americans at War: An Encyclopedia* by Jonathan D. Sutherland (ABC-CLIO, 2004). This two-volume set provides not only the “significant impact” lacking in the work under review here, but contains entries on themes and concepts germane to African Americans' battles with prejudice at home even as they battled the enemy abroad. While there are fewer total biographies presented, the ones that appear represent true trailblazers, as opposed to a seemingly indiscriminate roster of men and women in uniform.—*Michael F. Bemis, Assistant Librarian, Washington County Library, Woodbury, Minnesota*

Black Americans: A Statistical Sourcebook. 2007 ed. American Profiles Series. Woodside, Calif.: Information Publications, 2007. 390p. \$79 (ISBN 978-0-929960-44-9).

Even in this time of electronic information storage and