

## SOURCES

example. Articles relating to the topic follow, either on subjects (“Southern Jewish Retailers, 1840–2000”) or people (“Julius Rosenwald” and “Jacob H. Schiff”). At the end of each article are references and suggestions for further reading. Many are illustrated.

Complete for the entire two-volume work, the table of contents, preface, maps, and index appear in total in both volumes; the list of contributors is in just the second. Curiously, the maps are European, not American. They depict emigration from Europe, 1881–1910, death and concentration camps in World War II, and the number of Jews murdered in Europe between September 1, 1939, when Poland was invaded by Germany, through May 7, 1945, the date of Germany’s unconditional surrender, which ended the war in Europe.

The Library of Congress catalog lists sixty references under the subject heading “Jews-Encyclopedias”; however, there are few that cover what this encyclopedia does. One is called a ready reference; another is concise; a third is decennial in nature, treating events in Jewish life between 1972 and 1981; others are international in scope; and some were published decades ago and are now out of date. Libraries would do well to add this compilation to their shelves to take advantage of current scholarship and the expertise of the encyclopedia’s writers.—E. Richard McKinstry, *Andrew W. Mellon Senior Librarian, H. F. du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware*

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***Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media.*** Ed. by Jeffrey Jensen Arnett. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2007. 2 vols. alkaline \$325 (ISBN: 1-4129-0530-3).

Because today’s children and adolescents use television, music, and the Internet so extensively, the Kaiser Foundation calls them “Generation M,” for “media.” In recent years, one of the most popular undergraduate research topics has been the effect of the media on young people. Even when students consider other social issues such as gun violence in schools, obesity, or racial profiling, the contribution of the media to these problems typically enters the discussion. Thus library resources that focus on the media capture an important aspect of human life and also serve a key constituency.

Many monographs and journal articles have explored media and youth; even literature reviews and handbooks exist (for instance, see Norma Odom Pecora et. al’s *Children and Television: Fifty Years of Research* [Lawrence Erlbaum, 2007] or Dorothy and Jerome Singer’s *Handbook of Children and the Media* [Sage, 2001]). Yet despite the abundance of sources, Jeffrey Jensen Arnett’s *Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media* makes valuable contributions. As one would expect from Arnett (a developmental psychologist) and Sage Publications, the encyclopedia focuses on psychological and social aspects. But with more than four hundred entries (typically one or two pages in length), the encyclopedia takes a broad look at the topic. Articles cover a variety of media experiences, from images (*of* people), to usage (*by* people), to effects

(*on* people). They also broach the gamut of media types, from books and other print media to instant messaging and virtual reality. The encyclopedia also highlights hot-button issues such as the negative effects of viewing corporate advertising, gender and racial stereotypes, sexuality, and violence. It contains few articles about specific individuals, companies, or products. For example, it provides an article about violence in hip-hop music, but does not offer details about controversial rap groups like N.W.A. or Public Enemy.

In addition to its wide lens, the *Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media* includes other notable features. It contains some cross-cultural entries, not only African American, Latino, and Native American perspectives, but Chinese, European, Indian, and Japanese too. Unlike many resources, the encyclopedia includes basic information on media theories, research methods, advocacy groups, educational efforts, and public policy. Thus it not only concerns media usage and the effects, but also sheds light on efforts to understand and shape them.

Arnett did an excellent job of editing this work, which reflects contributions from hundreds of authors (nearly all academics). In addition to the “Reader’s Guide” at the beginning of the work, many of the articles include in-text citations to research studies, a list of further reading, and “see also” references. Impressive too are the consistent vocabulary and parallelism used in article titles and headings. For instance, it is easy to distinguish pieces dealing with effects from those concerning use. Also, for each major media type (books, computers, music, television) there are articles on the history of the medium; children’s and adolescents’ current usage of the medium; aggression/violence, gender, and sexuality portrayals in the medium; and the effects of using the medium. Thus it should be easy for a student to make comparisons across various media types, or to glean a holistic view of one medium.

In summary, *Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media* is essential for libraries serving undergraduate communications, education, media studies, and human development programs. In addition, it should be valuable for high-school and lower-division college students taking general education courses. The encyclopedia may also be a worthy purchase for libraries that do not own adequate critical or scholarly items about the media. *Bernadette A. Lear, Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, Pennsylvania.*

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***Encyclopedia of Contemporary Russian Culture.*** Ed. by Tatiana Smorodinskaya, Karen Evans-Romaine, and Helena Goscilo. *Encyclopedias of Contemporary Culture.* New York: Routledge, 2007. 800p. \$180 (ISBN 978-0-415-32094-8).

Editors Smorodinskaya, Evans-Romaine, Goscilo, and seven consultant editors have gathered and edited the work of more than 150 contributors, mostly university and college professors and independent scholars primarily from North America, Europe, and Russia, with a sprinkling of journalists