

Fifties in America (Super, 2005), *The Sixties in America* (Singleton, 1999), and *The Seventies in America* (Super, 2006) are all good alternatives. These are multivolume sets and, as such, have more scope and depth. The ten-volume set *American Decades*, edited by Vince Tomkins (Gale, 1994–) is another good choice for information for researchers looking for information on those “middle aged persons” and the baby boom generation. Recommended as a supplemental purchase for most libraries or only for private collections.—Carla Wilson Buss, *Curriculum Materials & Education Librarian, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, Georgia.*

Black America: A State-by-State Historical Encyclopedia.

Edited by Jr. Alton Hornsby. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011. 2 vols. acid free \$180 (ISBN: 978-0-313-34112-0). E-book available (978-1-5735-6976-7), call for pricing.

The editor of this two-volume set adopts a novel approach to a subject well covered by reference publishers. The state-by-state structure allows for the study of African American history from a more local context. The work presents countless facts, events, and personalities forgotten or otherwise drowned out by the broader tides of American history. Readers come away with a better understanding that black America is not a monolithic culture, and much of African American history has played out in far-flung corners of the country.

The illustrated encyclopedia covers all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Each state has sections for “Chronology,” “Notable African Americans,” “Cultural Contributions,” and a bibliography. The essay portions are well-written and researched overall, and the chronologies and bibliographies are helpful for historical context and further exploration. The cumulative index is indispensable, and thankfully well constructed, for finding topics dispersed across many states.

The chief weakness of the work is the uneven treatment of the biographies. It is difficult to discern how California only has nine biographies to Oregon and New Mexico’s eleven, Idaho’s thirteen, and Utah’s robust thirty-one, to name a few. As well, there seems to be no criteria to fully explain how notables were selected, or why some have been associated with one state or another or in multiple states in some cases. George Washington Carver has three entries in different states, but President Obama is placed only in Illinois, not Hawaii where he was born and raised. Langston Hughes is placed in Missouri where he was born, but he was raised elsewhere and made his mark in Harlem, as did Malcolm X, who was placed in Nebraska, his state of birth, although raised in Michigan from a small child. Furthermore, there are anomalies such as relatively minor rapper, Nelly, being the only hip hop artist with a biography. It can be argued that in the past two decades, major rap artists and producers such as Dr. Dre, Sean Combs, or Russell Simmons have had more influence over a generation of Americans than all but a few other contemporary African Americans, yet none of them or

their peers made the cut. It seems a generation gap has been exposed. The major jazz and R&B musicians of the twentieth century are well represented, but hip hop received very short shrift. All of the above issues may be a function of having so many authors writing the state profiles, however tighter editing should have smoothed over such glaring inconsistencies.

Despite its shortcomings, the work’s interesting approach and otherwise informative entries are of value to collections focused on high school or lower division college researchers.—Brent D. Singleton, *Coordinator for Reference Services, California State University, San Bernardino.*

Complete Crime & Punishment Series. Edited by William J. Chambliss. Key Issues in Crime and Punishment Series. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2011. 5 vols. \$400 (ISBN: 978-1-4129-9903-8). E-books available, \$500.

This collection explores current, significant issues in the field of criminal justice. The five volumes edited by William J. Chambliss comprise the Key Issues in Crime and Punishment series—*Crime and Criminal Behavior; Police and Law Enforcement; Courts, Law, and Justice; Corrections; and Juvenile Crime and Justice.*

In addition to being available as a five-volume set, each volume is available for separate purchase. Each title features its own focused introduction by Chambliss and a separate index to its content. With the changing scope and need for print reference materials, this offers libraries the advantage of purchasing all or selected series titles, depending on their students’ or patrons’ research needs.

The volumes are highly readable, well-organized, and filled with interesting content. Each chapter includes background information on a topic, as well as brief pro-con essays about the topic. Bibliographic references for further reading are included, as well as “see also” references to pages within the volume. Some examples of topics covered include undocumented immigrants, guns, and terrorism within *Crime and Criminal Behavior*; vigilantes, Miranda warnings, and zero-tolerance policing within *Police and Law Enforcement*; insanity laws, DNA evidence, and victims’ rights within *Courts, Law, and Justice*; gangs and prison violence, capital punishment, and prison privatization within *Corrections*; and school violence, violent juvenile offenders, and age of responsibility within *Juvenile Crime and Justice*. The e-book version is easy to use, with clearly visible and accessible table of contents, subject index, advanced search capabilities, and sidebar navigation to related items.

Depending on the needs of your students/patrons, specific volumes within the Complete Crime and Punishment Series, or the entire five-volume set, would be an excellent addition to your collection. Note that Sage offers numerous reference works that provide focused analysis of key topics in the field of criminal justice, such as the *Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment* (2002), the *Encyclopedia of Race and Crime* (2009), the *Encyclopedia of Victimology and Crime Prevention* (2010), the