

in a white land and all that that story entails, or in the words of the preface, the “totality” of that experience, “from beginnings in precolonial [sic] Atlantic Africa through the dawn of the 21st century” (xxix).

As might be expected, slavery and its ramifications take up a significant portion of the approximately 650 essays. On the whole, however, the set is well rounded with coverage of personalities past and present (Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois, Jesse Jackson, Angela Davis), geographic locations (Gold Coast), music (jazz, hip-hop), stereotypes (Jim Crow), folklore (black folk culture) and a wide ranging assortment of other subjects that relate either directly or indirectly to this particular minority. Each article is signed by its writer and concludes with cross-references and a short bibliography. Writing style is jargon free and straightforward, as the intended audience is high school/undergraduate college students, although literate readers of all stripes will find much of use here. While illustration is not profuse, it is certainly adequate, with black and white photographs, drawings, and sketches nicely amplifying the text.

Editors Alexander and Rucker both hold doctoral degrees and both are employed as associate professors at The Ohio State University at Columbus, the former teaching history and the latter teaching African American and African studies. Furthermore, both have previously published works regarding African American issues. They have together assembled an impressively long list of contributors, for the most part academics and independent scholars, but including a sprinkling of individuals from state historical societies and the like.

Overall, this is a solidly written and well researched mid-level set of reference books on this topic. Collection development and reference librarians should be aware, however, that options abound. Those with ample budgets and the urge to splurge might consider Oxford University Press’ similarly titled *Encyclopedia of African American History* (Paul Finkelman, ed.). For sheer volume of material and comprehensive scope, this is the one to have. Curiously enough, the work is divided into two sets. The first is the three-volume *1619–1895: From the Colonial Period to the Age of Frederick Douglass* (Oxford, 2006), while the second set continues the saga in five volumes, *1896 to the Present: From the Age of Segregation to the Twenty-First Century* (Oxford, 2009). All told, this combined set contains nearly two thousand articles. Also noteworthy is the second edition of Collin Palmer’s *Encyclopedia of African-American History and Culture* (Macmillan Reference USA/Gale Group, 2006) and likewise the second edition of *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience* by editors Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., (Oxford University Press, 2005). A lower cost alternative, but one still perfectly suitable to the high school and undergraduate crowd would be Carl L. Blankston’s *African American History* (Salem Press, 2005).—Michael F. Bemis, Assistant Librarian, Washington Cty. Lib., Woodbury, Minnesota

Encyclopedia of Case Study Research. Ed. by Albert J. Mills, Gabrielle Durepos, and Elden White. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2010. 2 vols. acid free \$375 (ISBN 978-1-4129-5670-3). E-book available (ISBN 978-1-4129-5739-7), \$435.

As a librarian serving part-time students in applied behavioral sciences programs, I am always seeking research methods information that is intellectually accessible. Since Sage is such a prolific publisher, one may wonder whether its *Encyclopedia of Case Study Research* (ECSR) adds to what is already on-shelf. Fortunately, only about 80 (or 20 percent) of the 357 topics in the ECSR appear in *The Sage Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Methods* (2008) and far fewer have counterparts in *The Sage Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods* (2004). Moreover, the ECSR contains information on fiction analysis (395–96), method of agreement and method of disagreement (555–59), and other subjects that I have not seen in reference sources by any publisher. Nearly every entry includes an application section which connects the topic to practical concerns. This feature is especially helpful for students who have difficulty grasping theoretical concepts. For instance, the applications section for the entry on dasein, Martin Heidegger’s idea that being human is a “relation—a form of being in the world,” explains how this intangible notion influences case study participants’ “perspective on knowledge” and requires researchers to consider the “mutual understanding” of people existing together in a “social world” (271–73). Thus the ECSR is exceptional in bridging high-level theory to project design.

Having established the uniqueness of the ECSR, an equally important question is what kind of library needs this title. Could this work help anyone besides the qualitative methods junkies? Oddly, the editors claim that there are “only a few texts” which “deal directly with case study as a central subject” (xxxi). Sage itself seems to offer plenty, including Robert Yin’s *Case Study Research: Design and Methods* (Sage, 4th ed., 2009), his *Applications of Case Study Research* (Sage, 2003), as well as books pertaining to specific contexts, such as Renee Campoy’s *Case Study Analysis in the Classroom: Becoming a Reflective Teacher* (Sage, 2005). Despite an entry on “The Case Study as a Methodological Approach” (which might have been better placed at the beginning of volume 1), I do not see the ECSR as a more efficient way of finding the step-by-step information that many students request. In addition, the case study is only one of many methods that qualitative researchers can use. Thus, unless one’s library supports graduate-level courses in case study methodology, or a significant number of students and faculty are doing such research, the more general *The Sage Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Methods* may be adequate. Recommended for graduate-level or specialized collections.—Bernadette A. Lear, Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, Pennsylvania