highlights the musical genres, instrumental ensembles, and unique musical instrumentation in the “Spanish-, Portuguese-, and French-speaking countries of the Western Hemisphere south of the United States” (xviii). Popular music is differentiated here from folk music by criteria of how the music is created and distributed. Rural or urban, popular music traverses geographic and cultural boundaries and is transmitted through mass media. Key ethno-musicological and sociohistorical concepts that characterize popular Latin American music are clearly explained. For example, there is a four-page article titled “Hybridity and Cultural Syncretism,” in which musicologist Mark Brill outlines the centuries of cultural fusion and the more recent acceleration of syncretic processes that have manifested in countless musical styles. Brill concludes that more recent globalization and mass commercialization have resulted in more homogenized music that has lost “much of the individuality that engendered it” (206). A 22-page index provides access to concepts, people, and topics embedded throughout 200 articles. For instance, the index term machismo leads to a clear discussion of the concept in an article titled “Gender in Latin American Popular Music.” Articles on individual Latin American countries outline the historical developments and cultural forces from which those countries’ musical innovations emerged. For instance, the seven-page article on Brazil provides historical demographics and elaborates on the African origins of the rhythms that characterize popular Brazilian genres, such as Samba, Choro, Música Sertaneja, and Música Popular Brasileira.

While this encyclopedia does not include biographical entries for musical performers, many of the articles identify representational musicians. The articles are arranged alphabetically, signed by the authors, and include a least one suggestion for further reading. Fresh and accessible, the Encyclopedia of Latin American Popular Music would complement and richly supplement Latin American music surveys, such as the Musics of Latin America, edited by Robin Moore (Norton, 2012). Both of these books interpret the music within the context of regional historical, cultural, and social tensions; however, the Encyclopedia of Latin American Popular Music is more comprehensive and contemporary in coverage. For more comprehensive and specialized treatment of Latin American music, including folk music, libraries should also collect Dale A. Olsen and Daniel E. Sheehy's The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music, Volume 2, South America, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean (Garland, 1998).—Valerie Mittenberg, Coordinator of Reference Services, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York, New Paltz, New York.


As a paper format reference work, the two-volume Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences (EPSS) only takes up three inches of shelf space, but it does provide an impressive range of essays. The goal is “to convey a clear sense of how philosophy looks at the social sciences and to mark out a detailed picture of how exactly the two are interrelated, interwoven at certain times but also differentiated and contrasted at others” (xxix). Thus the EPSS's aim varies, for example, from the more discipline-focused goals of the Encyclopedia of Philosophy, edited by Borchert (Macmillan, 2006), and Darity's International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences (IESS) (Macmillan, 2008).

As might be expected readers find topics related to disciplines like anthropology, political science, economics, geography, law, psychology, and sociology. The EPSS entries address broad substantive categories such as “Emotions,” “Intelligence,” and “Free Will,” other topics like “Falsifiability” and “Explanation, theories of,” and narrower topics like the “Marxist Economics” and “Luhmann's Social Theory.” Along with the goals of individual entries, the multi-perspectival approach is also facilitated by the first volume's readers’ guide with entries listed under broad, expected headings such as “Philosophy and History,” “Philosophy and Economics,” and others such as “Feminism and Social Science,” and “Biology and Social Science.”

Each entry includes a basic overview of the topic and includes the views of key scholars on that topic. The related lists of further readings are helpful and support follow up study. The overviews contain brief, accessible content both for undergraduate and graduate students and for other academically inclined readers.

The breadth of this two-volume resource is significant, but organization choices are necessary. So, while there is no general entry for “Morality,” as there is in the Darity resource, related entries include “Moral Cognitivism,” “Social Norms,” “Normativism Versus Realism,” and “Collective Values.” An index is in the back of the second volume, and it shows numerous discussions that include moral issues and factors, including one on “Neuroethics” where, along with neuroscience, ethicists are looking to the social sciences.

For those who seek discussion and beginning guidance on topics at the interface of philosophy and the social sciences, the EPSS can be used alone or as a supplement to other sources. So for example, related coverage for the topic “Behaviorism” is found in Ramachandran's Encyclopedia of Human Behavior (Elsevier, 2012), as well as in the Darity and Borchert resources. From the field of philosophy, the online Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (plato.stanford.edu), edited by Zalta, has more extensive (and possibly more demanding) reading with longer reference lists, and plans for ongoing updates. Even so, the EPSS entry for “Action” has many solid, current references that were not found in either Borchert or Zalta.

In sum, both for those with basic resources (Borchert) and for those without, the contents of EPSS bring valuable contributions to the table. As noted, the essays are deliberately constructed to include and interactively engage perspectives from philosophy and the social sciences. For

This set is more valuable, and more balanced, than the title suggests. Perhaps it can be argued that pretty much all US initiatives in Latin America have had at least the specter of US military strength in the background, but, fortunately, this encyclopedia covers economic and diplomatic initiatives in Latin America as well as actual uses of force. The Alliance for Progress, the Peace Corps and other nonviolent US efforts in the region have chapters. So, of course, do the violent episodes committed by local actors with US assistance. A previously naive reader may come away with a darkened understanding of US actions in Latin America, but it’s not all about bullets and blood.

Besides nearly 350 entries, the encyclopedia includes several research aids. There is both a standard alphabetical table of contents as well as listings of entries grouped by related broad topics, such as “Cultural Issues.” At the end of the second volume, there are thirteen original documents, a glossary, and an index. There is also an overall bibliography, and each entry includes a list of references. Black and white illustrations—mostly portraits of key players—are frequent. The writer of each entry is identified at the end of it.

A ballpark comparison among reference resources can be made with Barbara A. Tenenbaum’s Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture (Scribner’s, 1995) and Thomas M. Leonard’s Encyclopedia of Latin America (Facts of File, 2010). Tenenbaum’s project is almost twenty years older, so is out of date on a few subjects. The main difference, other than the obvious greater scope and size of Tenenbaum’s set, is that McPherson’s is focused on US leaders and actions. For example, both sets have sizable entries about the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo, but McPherson’s then has a separate entry about the effects of Trujillo’s assassination on US policy.

The Leonard encyclopedia has four volumes that each cover a different era, the last being 1900 to the present, with entries in each volume organized alphabetically. That format feels awkward, and US interventions are certainly not the sets focus; the Contras do not even have their own entry but are included in one about Central American wars of the 1980s. Nevertheless, the set offers several interesting research aids and is still current.

Benjamin R. Beede’s one-volume The War of 1898 and U.S. Interventions 1898–1934: An Encyclopedia (Garland, 1994) covers a bit of the same ground as McPherson but is more about US military history than US–Latin American relations. Michael Grow’s U.S. Presidents and Latin American Interventions: Pursuing Regime Change in the Cold War (University Press of Kansas, 2008) is a monograph with full-scale chapters on each intervention it addresses but is limited to modern times.

The new set should be quite helpful to high school and college students new to this subject and could be of general interest in communities with strong Latin American cultural consciousness, but it would be supplementary to a broader set such as Leonard’s.—Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana


This two-volume set is the second edition of Sage’s highly regarded 2004 Encyclopedia of White-Collar and Corporate Crime. As before, the work is aimed at college, public, and high school libraries. The introduction states that, during the first two decades of the 2000s, “white collar crime has become a topic of almost daily news” with, for example, “massive violations of laws pertaining to improper investments in mutual funds and large banking firms” (xxvii).

This edition comes nine years later and includes not only approximately eighty new articles but major revisions to the articles from the former edition. All the articles have been newly assigned in an effort to include the most up-to-date information. As in the previous edition, Lawrence M. Salinger, an expert in organized crime and professor of criminology and sociology at the Arkansas State University, is the editor. He introduces the work and explains the major revisions that this edition represents.

Articles in the work “focus on the introductory knowledge that students can utilize” (xxx). New material includes the bankruptcy of General Motors, new sets of regulations, the Bernard Madoff Ponzi scheme, the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street & Consumer Protection Act. This last is also included in the law summaries in a twenty-three-page summary of this very complicated act. Upgrades to former articles cover recent judicial and congressional actions as well as new criminal activities in areas such as age discrimination, campaign finance, identity theft, industrial espionage, gender discrimination, and health care fraud. The latter mentions provisions of the Affordable Care Act that are intended to fight fraud.

As before, the format is conducive to easy access to information: a list of the articles, an extensive reader’s guide, alphabetical entries with see also references and a brief bibliography, eight law summaries, and a very thorough index. This is a fine reference work and one well worth the price if there is need.—Carol Kriemann, Retired Business Librarian, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado