Wow”; “The Who”; “Hot Wheels”; “Handheld Electronic Gadgets”; and “Reading Problems and Rural Boys”. The articles on boys as reflected in media focus on specific works and creators rather than genres. Historical content is included when relevant, and some articles (on the fictional character Chip Hilton, for example) highlight topics representative of boy culture’s past. The articles’ writing style and level of detail (such as a chart listing the accomplishments of several popular hip-hop artists) demonstrate the scholarly approach taken even to seemingly pure pop-culture topics. Though having an American focus, there are profiles of boys of other cultures in the chapter “Differences and Boys.” Photographs, sadly, are missing from Boy Culture.

Compared to Boyhood in America, this set’s articles include more specific popular culture topics. Boyhood in America takes a more historical approach and does not have articles on specific creative works. But it does overlap with Boy Culture in its articles on activities, pastimes, and social groups. Though containing black and white photographs, it is nine years older than Boy Culture. It is also available as an e-book and is priced at $185.

Boy Culture: An Encyclopedia should enhance the recognition this field receives in the academic community as an important area of study. Combined with Girl Culture: An Encyclopedia, it is an important contribution to the scholarship of the phenomena that shape the social identities of boys and girls. It is recommended for college libraries with sociology and cultural studies programs.—Eric Petersen, Librarian, HG-R Block Business and Career Center, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri


Published by Euromonitor, these two statistical yearbooks are packed with global market research. According to the book’s introduction, Consumer Americas 2011 has amplified its market data coverage to include Pan-American market information, adding the United States and Canada, as well as Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, and Uruguay. This single volume source replaces data previously available in three Euromonitor titles: Consumer USA, Consumer Latin America, and Consumer International & Marketing Forecasts. Moreover, this new, expanded edition provides forecast data next to the historical time series data.

The statistical information in Consumer Americas 2011 is broken down into five sections: introduction, “Socio-Economic Parameters,” “Consumer Markets,” “Market Growth Rankings,” and “Country Snapshots.” The “Socio-Economic Parameters” section provides regional, socioeconomic data comparing fourteen countries for the 2004–9 period. The socioeconomic parameters include such statistical categories as economic indicators, foreign trade, population, health, household characteristics, etc.

The “Consumer Markets” section presents consumer market data in U.S. dollar terms, per capita figures, or volume units over the period 2004–9 and forecasts from 2009–14. Examples of the nineteen consumer markets presented include beauty and personal care, clothing and footwear, and soft drinks. The tables displayed in the “Market Growth Rankings” section quickly illustrate the historical real growth rates across the nineteen consumer markets covered. For example, the “Pet Care Ranked by Fastest Real Growth 2004–2009” table shows that Argentina has had the fastest percentage real growth as valued by national currencies in this consumer market.

In the “Country Snapshots” section, each country’s socioeconomic parameters and consumer market data are dissected and presented in greater detail in a series of standardized tables. Figures are shown in the national currency when available, and the historical and forecast data are presented next to each other.

Retail Trade International contains extensive data on the global retailing industry. The book covers statistical data and analysis from fifty-two countries across the world. A typical chapter for a country is fifteen to twenty pages in length and provides a “key trends and developments” overview for the varying retail industry and environments within each country and historical and forecast market data for each retail environment. Retail environments range from supermarkets and discounters to vending and internet retailing. The time period for the historical data is 2004–9 while the forecast trends are calculated to 2014. A handy feature is the “Glossary of Terms and Definitions” included in the introduction section which standardizes and defines each retail environment that is subsequently analyzed.

These two books are useful, in-depth, and authoritative resources for the business student or company. The industry and consumer market analysis in these books is not unique. There are a number of databases and print sources that offer comparable data. However, the Euromonitor books offer an affordable alternative to the more expensive electronic sources but without the 24/7 access. For libraries with bigger budgets, Euromonitor offers this information in electronic format in one of its industry and consumer research databases. Recommended for academic and public libraries with business programs.—Colleen Lougen, Electronic Resources Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz


Crime and Punishment Around the World provides a comprehensive overview of criminal data and policies that the editors rightly acknowledge can be challenging to find and accurately interpret. This is because this type of information invariably opens a country up to criticism. Crime data may be massaged to show the country in a more favorable light.