

the U.S. Presidency, a four volume reference set, chronicles each United States president from George Washington to Barack Obama. Edited by Mathew Manweller, associate professor of political science at Central Washington University, this set is targeted toward high school and undergraduate students.

Organized chronologically, entries for each of the forty-three presidents follow an identical format, with each including the following sections: basic statistics, presidential biography, first family biography, cabinet member overview, chronological list of key dates and events, primary source documents, and a bibliography. *Chronology* also includes an excellent introductory essay expounding upon the history and extraordinary growth of the American presidency and its expansion of powers. Finally, this work concludes with an equally important essay that further explains the powers, structure, and process of the presidency and how the office has changed over time.

Chronology stands out for its uniform organization, inclusion of basic electoral statistics, and a superb overview of the key elements of each administration including the role of the commander-in-chief's cabinet members and the contributions of each First Lady. This work not only includes information about the first families and cabinet members, it also provides the reader with several abridged primary source documents from each president. Although this title supplies readers with ample information about each president and key figures and events during their time in office, this work does not necessarily provide a critical assessment of the presidency. While each biographical section includes some limited interpretive treatment, the general theme of this work is to provide the reader with actual facts, such as dates and events, with very little critical interpretation of policy decisions and political actions. Works such as Melvin I. Urofsky's *The American Presidents* (Garland, 2000) and Robert P. Watson's *The American Presidents* (Salem Press, 2006) provide a more critical, though less structured, overview of American presidents.

As the title suggests, *Chronology of the U.S. Presidency* is a linier study of the presidents in which the dates of events such as important speeches, meetings with foreign leaders, and the signing of bills and acts are delineated in the chronology section of each entry. The biographical treatment of each president, while in essay form, also reads more like a chronology and begins with a description of each president's childhood life, then follows with a description of his rise to the presidency, his time as president, and his life after holding office. Explicitly designed to highlight events chronologically, this approach coupled with its uniform layout, makes *Chronology of the U.S. Presidency* a highly accessible reference work for the general public and both high school and undergraduate students seeking background information on any United States president or his administration. This work is recommended for high school libraries, medium to large-size public libraries, and academic libraries.—Joseph A. Hurley, *Data Services, Geosciences, Gov't Info, Maps and GIS Librarian, Georgia State University Library, Atlanta*

Encyclopedia of Community Corrections. Ed. by Shannon M. Barton-Bellessa. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2012. 487 p. \$115 (ISBN: 9781412990837).

The stated purpose of the *Encyclopedia of Community Corrections* is to "provide a reference resource that reviews the topic of community-based alternatives to incarceration" (xx). This book certainly meets this objective. Further, upon performing searches of some of the usual librarian haunts like my library's catalog, GOBI, and even Amazon.com, I have encountered some difficulty in locating similar works that can be accurately referred to as "reference works." Only a handful of books of case studies, reports, and monographs focus this closely on the subject of community corrections.

The entries in this work provide a surprisingly complete discussion of their topics. Depending upon the topic, some entries are brief and span a page or less, and other entries, such as "Effectiveness of Community Corrections," span well over five pages and include historical background and summaries of pertinent research studies. Every entry includes suggestions for further reading. This will prove particularly useful for students who are looking not only for a place to begin their research, but also more detailed, specific resources.

On the whole, the layout of the book is conducive to easy use for readers. A list of entries, a reader's guide, and a chronology are included. The reader's guide will prove particularly useful for students conducting research. All entries are organized under topical headings such as "Classification and Risk Assessment," "Diversion and Probation," "History, Development, and Definitions," "Intermediate Sanctions," "Parole," and "Theory and Treatment in the Community." Such organization will prove useful for readers encountering the terminology of community corrections for the first time. Similarly, the entries are written in easily understood language and interesting enough that newcomers to the field will experience no difficulty but are also detailed enough that individuals with a criminal justice background would likely encounter new information as well.

I found myself desiring a more detailed organizational scheme for the contents of the book. On the contents page, the reader is provided with the page numbers on which entries starting with each letter of the alphabet begin. Quicker and more efficient usage could be achieved by also placing page numbers for each entry in the "List of Entries" section. Further, while all entries are signed, the only information offered about the contributors is their institutional affiliation. I would have liked to see a short biographical sketch or a brief summary of each contributor's research and background. These small deficiencies do little to interfere with the overall usability of this work, however.

The *Encyclopedia of Community Corrections* comes recommended for academic libraries serving institutions with law enforcement or criminal justice programs, as well as for some public libraries.—Anita J. Slack, *Information Services Librarian, Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana*