

Crime & Punishment in the U.S. Ed. by Phyllis B. Gerstenfeld. Magill's Choice. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2008. 3 vols. alkaline \$217 (ISBN 978-1-58765-427-5).

This work is a three-volume encyclopedic reference set consisting of 257 signed articles on U.S. crime, with a particular focus on criminals and their mindset.

The body of each two- to eight-page article is prefaced by a definition of the topic and the significance of the criminal justice issues related to it. The entries include statistics, trends, a further reading list, and a list of "see also" references. An example is the entry for three-strikes laws, which resulted in legal challenges that culminated in the U.S. Supreme Court weighing in on whether the law was a violation of the Eighth Amendment prohibition against "cruel and unusual punishment." The entry reviews the "three-strikes" concept from a national perspective and delves into more detail for the state of California.

The set of *Crime & Punishment in the U.S.* would have been enhanced by a comprehensive index in each volume rather than the cumulative index in the third volume. Although this set provides further reading lists, several resources cited are more than a decade old. The addition of more contemporary resources would have provided additional value. Articles are signed, though more detail about the authors whose credentials note only that they are "independent scholars" would have given added weight to the information provided.

In comparison, *Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment* (Sage, 2002) is comprehensive in its coverage of all things related to criminal activity, with features such as a chronology of crime from 1795 BC to 2002, a comprehensive list of all the topics covered in the set, and extensive appendixes. Libraries owning this set, in conjunction with using the most recent statistics from *Crime in the United States* (www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm), may not need to purchase the 2008 Magill's publication. However, *Crime & Punishment in the U.S.* is a reasonably priced reference set, useful for initial research by students in law enforcement programs and by the general public for information on vast array of crime-related issues. Recommended for larger public libraries and for academic libraries, particularly those with law enforcement programs.—*Lisa Powell Williams, Adult Services Coordinator, Moline (Ill.) Public Library*

Encyclopedia of Bilingual Education. Ed. by Josue M. Gonzalez. Los Angeles: Sage, 2008. 2 vols. \$325 (ISBN 978-1-4129-3720-7).

This two-volume Sage encyclopedia highlights the multidisciplinary, controversial, and political nature of bilingual education in K–12 schools. The reader's guide, located at the beginning of each volume, shows the entries organized into eight broad categories: Family, Community, and Society; History; Instructional Design; Language and Linguistics; People and Organizations; Policy Evolution; Teaching and Learning; and Related Social Sciences. There is also an alphabetical listing of the more than three hundred entries contributed

by more than one hundred experts. A cumulative index is located at the end of the second volume.

The purpose of this encyclopedia is to summarize the research on bilingual education in the United States so that students, journalists, and the public have a clear starting point on the subject. This is accomplished by providing brief informative essays that vary in length from one page to several pages and link to other resources in the form of "see also" references and further readings. Entries provide a sweeping, historical view of such issues as immigration and language policy, educational reform, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and the status of indigenous languages. Also covered is current research on promising programs such as two-way immersion/dual language instruction.

The articles that debate the merits of English as the official national language present interesting perspectives. The entry in favor of English-only language policies was written by the communications director of the organization U.S. English Incorporated (with an editor's note as disclaimer at the beginning of the article). The opposing viewpoint is an essay written with supporting documentation from the National Council of Teachers of English, Modern Language Association, and Teaching English as a Second Language. Lastly, there is an article explaining what it would mean for the United States to adopt an official language. These articles are representative of the encyclopedia as a whole, giving equal treatment to different facets of an issue, however inflammatory the viewpoints may be, and leading the reader to the supporting literature on the subject.

Though the majority of the encyclopedia deals with issues in the United States, it also provides valuable international perspectives by including articles such as "Status Differences Among Languages," "Nationalization of Languages," and "Language Education Policy in Global Perspective." Another very important contribution of this publication is the inclusion of articles that address the need to develop bilingual and biliteracy skills in a variety of languages. Researchers present promising practices for instruction in a number of languages, including German, Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese, French, and, of course, "Spanish, The Second National Language."

A comparable reference work on the subject of bilingual education is Colin Baker and Sylvia Prys Jones' *Encyclopedia of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education* (Multilingual Matters, 1998). Whereas *Encyclopedia of Bilingual Education* is made up of discrete essays in stark black and white with few charts and graphs, *Encyclopedia of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education* includes maps, full-color pictures, personal stories of bilingualism, as well as entries and examples tracing bilingualism around the globe. There is an entire section devoted to world languages with relatively little coverage given to bilingual education in the United States. *Encyclopedia of Bilingual Education*, in comparison, provides current statistics and research and has a large section devoted to education legislation, a topic that is not discussed at all in the *Encyclopedia of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education*. It is my belief that these two reference resources comple-