
This concise encyclopedia provides a comprehensive and unbiased overview of attention deficit hyperactivity disorders (ADHD). According to the author, ADHD is one of the most studied current neuropsychological diagnoses. ADHD diagnosis and treatment are controversial topics that require a broad and evenhanded resource to help navigate the issues.

Most recent titles on the subject are either meant for clinicians, like Steven Pliszka’s Treating ADHD and Comorbid Disorders: Psychosocial and Psychopharmacological Interventions (Guilford, 2009); are resources for personal management, like Martin Kutscher’s ADHD: Living Without Brakes (Kingsley, 2009); or have a strong subject bias, like Thomas Brown’s Attention Deficit Disorder: The Unfocused Mind in Children and Adults (Yale Univ. Pr., 2006). This encyclopedia fills an important gap in materials related to this disorder and would be an excellent overview of the topic for beginning research.

Encyclopedia of Attention Deficit Disorders comprises 170 articles, in alphabetical order, that cover a wide variety of subjects related to the disorders. The article topics range from tools of diagnosis, medications used, alternative therapies, complications, other factors that affect the symptoms, and legal issues. Most articles are a page to a page and a half in length. Some of the broader topics, such as “Teaching Children with ADHD” or “Diagnosis of ADHD,” have longer entries.

There is an extensive bibliography in this volume, providing an important resource for further research. Two appendixes provide a list of diagnoses related to ADHD and a directory of U.S. organizations for people seeking further information.

This single volume provides a strong resource for non-specialists, such as college students, teachers, and parents. Highly recommended for college and medium to large public library reference collections.—Jessica Wetz, Brooks Memorial Library, Brattleboro, Vermont


This four-volume set is an ultracontemporary resource for teaching and learning. The editors state in the introduction that “by understanding the context of the writer’s work, you are more likely to recognize key themes and stylistic traits as elements of larger trends in the literary world, as well as understand the impact of historical events from a new and unique perspective” (xxi).

Coverage spans centuries, cultures, and genres. It is not stated how the included authors were selected or what criteria was used. It is also not clear who authored the entries. Responsibility is given only for the project editors and an advisory board composed of four scholars. There is a good balance between classic and contemporary, well-known and lesser-known authors. Many authors of young adult and children’s literature are included. Coverage of different periods is also represented fairly; the inclusion of many lesser-known and contemporary authors writing in the twenty-first century is the only encyclopaedia of its kind to provide quick overviews of communication theories and traditions. Edited by the co-authors of the classic textbook Theories of Human Communication (Thomson/Wadsworth, 2008), this two-volume set is a convenient reference source covering communication theories, including group and organizational, media and mass, and interpersonal communication. The entries are comprehensive, written by international scholars, and reviewed by an editorial board.

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