# Reference Books

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Editor

*Encyclopedia of Attention Deficit Disorders*. By Evelyn Kelly. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2009. 256p. acid-free $85 (ISBN 978-0-313-34249-3).

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 nonspecialists, such as college students, teachers, and parents. Highly recommended for college and medium to large public library reference collections.—*Jessica Weitz, Brooks Memorial Library, Brattleboro, Vermont*

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*Encyclopedia of Communication Theory*. Ed. by Stephen W. Littlejohn and Karen A. Foss. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2009. 2 vols. acid free $350 (ISBN 978-1-412-95937-7).

*Encyclopedia of Communication Theory* is the only encyclopedia 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.

*Encyclopedia of Communication Theory* is geared to undergraduate students who have little or no knowledge of communication theory; however, communication scholars will find it useful as a ready reference source for research and teaching. The entries provide introductory information explaining communication theory in the simplest, jargon-free terms, transforming theoretical content into manageable concepts. The encyclopedia is extensive in its scope, covering communication theory from the classical period of Greece, Rome, and India up to the present day. In addition, the encyclopedia provides information on a variety of topics, such as theoretical concepts, traditions, paradigms, schools, metatheories, methodologies, inquiries, orientations, applications, and contexts.

Volume 1 includes a reader's guide that classifies the encyclopedia's entries into seventeen easily browsed, topical categories, such as "Critical Orientations," "Paradigms, Traditions, and Schools," and "Theory, Metatheory, Methodology, and Inquiry." In addition, volume 1 contains an alphabetical list of theorists and the corresponding entry titles that cover their scholarship, as well as a chronology of key events in the history of communication theory. Volume 2 features a forty-page selected bibliography of theoretical works by topic.

This reference work is unique because its sole focus is communication theory and tradition. Highly recommended for academic libraries. Available electronically.—*Colleen Lougen, Electronic Resources Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz*

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*Gale Contextual Encyclopedia of American Literature*. Ed. by Anne Marie Hacht and Dwayne D. Hayes. Detroit: Gale, 2009. 4 vols. $495 (ISBN 978-1-414-43130-7).

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