listed sequentially in Danilov’s book. Taking the example of the six museums associated with Edison, I might not be able to travel to New Jersey to visit the granddaddy of Edison museums—the Thomas Edison National Historical Park, but one of the others might be within driving distance. Using The Official Museum Directory, I probably would not realize that these other five existed. Finding them requires some prior knowledge as to their geographic location since many of the smaller museums that were treated as separate and distinct entries in Danilov’s book are buried within other entries in The Official Museum Directory. Try looking up “Edison” in The Official Museum Directory and you will see why Danilov’s book fills a gap. While you can look up museums by name, there is no index in The Official Museum Directory that correlates with the names of the people who built the institutions, themselves, or who are memorialized by those institutions. The Danilov directory is a recommended purchase.—Dana M. Lucisano, Reference Librarian, Silas Bronson Library, Waterbury, Connecticut


Food and Drink in American History is food writer and teacher Andrew F. Smith’s latest encyclopedic exploration of the culinary tastes and habits of the American people, having previously edited The Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America (Oxford University Press, 2004; 2nd edition 2013). Like the latter work, Food and Drink in American History follows an A–Z format tracing the historical developments of the American diet through individual articles, “American” in both works being almost exclusively the United States.

Food and Drink in American History is the product of a single author, though two other contributors are listed and acknowledged for the use of their work in 13 of the 664 entries. The 1,300 entries in The Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America 2nd edition are the collaborative work of some 350 contributors, including Andrew F. Smith.

Unique to Food and Drink in American History are 285 recipes culled from cookbooks and other sources used as historical illustrations of specific ingredients, techniques, or foodways associated with a particular article as, for example, the recipe for “Corn Dodgers” that illustrates the encyclopedia’s article on “Fair Food” (303). One Hundred twenty-nine reprinted primary source documents such as George Washington’s notice “To the Inhabitants of the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware” making arrangements for provisioning the Continental Army through its winter encampment (1067) reinforce the historical place of food in American life, as do the eleven articles tracing continuity and change in the American diet from PreColumbian food through the latest decade of the current century.

Articles in Food and Drink in American History provide see also references to related material as well as references for additional reading. An extensive and up-to-date general bibliography in Food and Drink in American History extends the source references while the “Guide to Related Topics” (xxiii–xxxiii) repeated in volumes 1 and 2 serves nicely to supplement the see also references by pulling related articles together under broad topical categories such as “Ethnic, Religious, and Special-Interest Foods,” “Government and Public Policy,” and “Transportation of Food,” to list a few such topical categories. Appendices in volume 3 provide a listing of food history associations, organizations, and culinary history groups, a category also included in The Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America.

The audience for which Food and Drink in American History is intended is “those interested in food and drink in American history, including students, foodies, and general readers” (xxxvi). Food and Drink in American History is suitable for high school, junior college, and public libraries that do not own either edition of The Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America and find the price of the former better suited to their budget. College and University libraries as well as research public libraries and libraries with a special interest in the culinary arts will want to update to the second edition of The Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America if they have not already done so and regard the addition of Food and Drink in American History as an optional supplement.—Sally Moffitt, Bibliographer and Reference Librarian for Anthropology, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Africana Studies, Asian Studies, Judaic Studies, Latin American Studies, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Cohen Library Enrichment Collection Langsam Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio


This volume is an extensive study of headwear that discusses both the physical attributes of headwear and how it reflects the culture of the people who create and wear these items. Utilizing an A–Z list of entries, Professor Chico has compiled an informative and comprehensive guide to millinery from around the globe as a result of collecting and studying the subject for forty years. Although the topic is limited to hats and headwear, the book covers ancient and contemporary headwear from around the globe.

A positive attribute of this encyclopedia is that it covers a multitude of cultures and headwear without bias or prejudice. Her discussion of the Catholic Cardinal’s red hat and the Islamic Burqa receive a similar treatment where a detailed description of the hat is provided and complemented with a background of the hat’s historical and cultural significance. Additionally, Chico details the religious importance, historical events, and ethnic issues in her entries. Her objective observations and contextual information make this a compelling
read that is enjoyable while being informative.

Black and white photos are provided, but unfortunately in comparison to books also covering this topic such as Hats: A History of Fashion in Headwear, by Hilda Amphlett, which has several pictures per chapter, this volume only has eighty images in total. While Chico does give detailed descriptions, several entries on obscure or archaic headwear such as the Escoffin headdress worn by European ladies in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, would have benefitted from an illustration (139). Conversely, images of well-known headwear such as a bicycle helmet are provided. Had Chico been more judicious in her choice of images and illustrations, the book would have been more informative and helpful for a wider range of users.

Overall this general reference book provides excellent descriptions, historical context, and discussions of cultural importance. It looks at headwear internationally rather than focusing solely on one region or culture, so I would recommend its purchase for universities with relevant academic programs. This is also available for purchase electronically, which is nice as it provides options when selecting for purchase.—Marissa Ellermann, Public Services Librarian, Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana


With the growing emphasis on media literacy, academics routinely choose feature films and documentaries to supplement their courses. But with the myriad of available media, how to choose? More importantly, how does one select a film that reflects and critiques rather than distorts or attempts to rewrite American history? Expanding coverage in his History in the Media: Film and Television (ABC-CLIO, 2006) from 350 films and film series to 500, author Niemi (professor of English and American Studies at St. Michael’s College) narrows his criterion for inclusion to films that deal with an actual, documented historical incident rather than a treatment of the generic history film. The arrangement is chronological pertaining to the events the films depict and the entries range from roughly half a page to two pages in length with occasional illustrations. An extensive index is provided that includes film titles, actors, historical figures, and related events. When appropriate, Neimi offers a brief treatment of the discrepancies between the historical reality and the film’s portrayal along with his assessment of the film’s overall quality. This selective survey includes primarily American productions dealing with military history, sports, music and art history, politics, race relations, and crime, with the bulk of the entries covering military history. The coverage is more expansive than the seventy-nine essays in the excellent The Columbia Companion to American History on Film (Columbia, 2006) but the depth of the historical analyses and film scholarship in the Columbia Companion make it the stronger contender for the standard work in the field.

A further reading option at the end of each entry would have been easier to navigate than the general bibliography, so this may frustrate users looking for Niemi’s source material on a particular film. Instructors, however, who are searching for films to fit the themes of their classes will find this work helpful for quickly determining a film’s quality and validity. For general academic collections and public libraries with an emphasis on film studies.—Robin Imhof, Humanities Librarian, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California


Providing an encyclopedic overview of the impact of music on American life is a Herculean task. Music saturates American culture. It is experienced in a vast variety of ways, ranging from movie soundtracks to commercial jingles to the intimate iPod. Music in American Life attempts to frame “the significant role music has played in American life” (xxiii).

This four-volume set, also available as an e-book, contains more than 500 entries, focusing specifically on American music and musicians. Foreign artists are mentioned but only within broader articles related to American culture (for example, The Beatles are mentioned in articles on “British Influences on Rock Music,” “Musicians as Actors,” and others). The writing level is appropriate for high school students and higher. Articles provide suggestions for further reading, and occasional cross-references. The final volume includes a selected bibliography and discography, a listing of music festivals, and related websites.

The principle failing of this resource lies in its coverage. While the editor wisely warns the readers of the perils inherent with such an ambitious undertaking—“not every artist, band, or topic can be included as a main entry” (xxvii)—there is no further clarification as to the decisions and guidelines used when deciding who and what would be included. This results in a hodgepodge of entries with no apparent logical criteria for the user to depend on. The encyclopedia states that “the emphasis of these volumes is on the first decades of the twenty-first century” (xxvi), and there are articles on current artists such as Beyoncé, Britney Spears, and Lady Gaga, but other comparable artists such as Taylor Swift, Christina Aguilera, and Pink are missing. Why does Grandmaster Flash have an article devoted to him, but not Run-D.M.C. or the Beastie Boys? Neither Stevie Wonder nor Diana Ross has an entry (although there is a short article on The Supremes). Conversely, there are also entries that seem out of place because they are included: Eric Whitacre and Frank Ticheli, for example. While both are current, accomplished composers in “classical” or “art” music, they do not have the same level of cultural recognition and familiarity held by the