

## SOURCES

credible and comprehensive in scope. However, these books face major competition from the Internet and other electronic resources. For long-term survival, these books will need to be very easily browsed by the average user. For example, the front matter section “Bibliography of Secondary Sources” is a comprehensive listing of the resources used to research the entries in the entire book. This list includes websites with long addresses and electronic newspaper articles, which may be difficult to find on the Internet after a period of time. More important, this bibliographic list should have been categorized by literary author, not just by the author of the resource. To use a specific example, all of the secondary sources used for research on the entry for Saul Bellow should be listed together for easier browsing.

The front matter section “Survey of Jewish-American Literature” gives a lengthy perspective, broken down into specific time periods (e.g., “1492–1880: Jews and American Settlement”) of Jewish history and the gradual development of the literature. Users also would benefit from a separate list of authors broken down into these time periods.

The primary source bibliography in the back of the book is stronger. It gives a list of each author alphabetically with a list of their major works with the date in parentheses after the title. This should probably be labeled more explicitly for high school students who may not always relate the term “primary source” to literature.

The content of the author biographies interweave the author’s literary works with significant life events. This is the real strength of the book. While a search of *Literature Resource Center* (Gale) for Saul Bellow yielded additional lists of information about Bellow’s literary career not found here, this book places the context firmly in the Jewish-American experience and culture. Most suited to high school students, school librarians will need to actively market this book to students who would likely seek this type of information from the Internet or other electronic resources.—*Terry Darr, Library Director, Loyola Blakefield, Towson, Maryland*

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***Encyclopedia of Play in Today’s Society***. Ed. by Rodney P. Carlisle. Los Angeles: Sage, c. 2009. 2 vols. \$325 (ISBN: 978-1-4129-6670-2). Ebook ed. \$405 (eISBN 978-1-4129-7193-5) (not reviewed).

All work and no play can make a dull reference book. *Encyclopedia of Play in Today’s Society* is anything but dull. Sage has created a unique and comprehensive work that addresses all aspects of play. *Encyclopedia of Play in Today’s Society* examines childhood and adult play. Research is provided for a history of play throughout the ages and in a wide array of world cultures.

The 450 articles that compose *Encyclopedia of Play in Today’s Society* are diverse, ranging from a description of the Sonic the Hedgehog video game series, to the importance of recess and how it differs from a physical education, to Piaget’s theory of fantasy play, to play in Belarus. Each entry provides *see also* references to other articles and a brief bibliography for further reference. Card games, board games, playground

games, and sporting games, such as bowling and curling, are covered. Rules for Slapjack, perhaps long forgotten from childhood memories, and information on its Chinese variation Snap is provided. How gender influences play is delineated in the articles “Boys’ Play” and “Girls’ Play.” “Psychology of Play” and “Sociology of Play” further expand on the role of play in individual and social life experiences.

The concept of play is paramount to the creators of this resource. A bonus feature is a puzzle that invites readers to engage in playing by searching for a key quote about play’s importance by locating clues hidden among various entries.

An extensive glossary, a resource guide, appendixes, and an index are provided. While other resources may incorporate information on play-related topics, no other guide covers play so extensively, making it difficult to generate comparisons to other resources and thus, making *Encyclopedia of Play in Today’s Society* an imperative purchase for academic libraries. It also is recommended for larger public libraries as an addition to parent/teacher collections or general reference collections. This resource will be of particular interest to LIS students seeking to become children’s services librarians.—*Lisa Powell Williams, Adult Services Coordinator, Moline (Ill.) Public Library*

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***Encyclopedia of Race and Crime***. Ed. by Helen T. Greene and Shaun L. Gabbidon. Los Angeles: Sage, 2009. 2 vols. Acid free. \$350.00/set (ISBN: 978-1-4129-5085-5).

Regardless of how one views the demographic makeup of the United States, be it “melting pot” or “salad bowl” or some other metaphor, there is no getting around the fact that the heterogeneous nature of the populace has been a source of friction since the inception of the republic. One flashpoint in particular ignites repeatedly down through the centuries, and it is to be found at the intersection of race and crime, the very subject of this two-volume set, *Encyclopedia of Race and Crime*. Charges of police profiling, the ongoing saga of O. J. Simpson, and seemingly daily reports of ethnic gang warfare only serve to underscore the significance of this topic. The antecedent and contemporary issues involved, the scattered nature of information in this regard, and an alternative to what is presented to the public by the mass media are posited in the introduction as underlying the need for a work of this type (xxviii). This reviewer concurs that the present work fills a void and generally does it in a commendable way.

Editors Greene and Gabbidon are both well versed in their subject matter. The former holds a doctorate in criminology from the University of Maryland and is currently professor and interim chair of the Administration of Justice Department in the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. The latter is likewise in possession of a doctorate in criminology, earned from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and at present serves as professor of criminal justice in the School of Public Affairs at Penn State Harrisburg. Both have written widely in their chosen field, with a particular emphasis on the race–crime connection.