

such as “Punk music.” Sadly, there are no index entries for Big Star, Alex Chilton, Elvis Costello, or Sinéad O’Connor.

The depth of coverage provided for each band makes this set suitable for all libraries that maintain a popular music collection. Readers seeking more adrenaline fueled writing about their rock idols could find the academic prose uninspiring; however, they are likely to learn something new and important about their favorite bands’ unique place in the history of pop music.—*Valerie Mittenberg, Collection Development Librarian, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York, New Paltz, New York*

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***The 100 Most Important Sporting Events in American History.*** By Lew Freedman. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 385 pages, acid free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3574-2). Ebook available (978-1-44408-3575-9), call for pricing.

The cover sells this book. There’s Jackie Robinson in his Brooklyn Dodgers uniform, bat in hand, changing America. It’s as simple, and monumental, as that.

Freedman, an oft-honored sports journalist, spells out in his extensive introduction that he wasn’t writing about the greatest moments or the greatest athletes in American sports history, although some of those are featured. He chose the 100 sports milestone “events” that he believes had the most impact on society and even history.

Some of them—especially when Robinson was signed to break the color barrier in big-time American sports—took place far from the crowds and the playing fields. Others, such as “The Miracle on Ice,” were witnessed by millions on television. Some of the events had huge social significance, such as the passage of Title IX or the creation of basketball. Others showed sports highlighting social change, as when tennis great Martina Navratilova came out as a gay person or when super-cyclist Lance Armstrong finally admitted using performance-enhancing drugs. And some, such as what Freedman calls the “Soap Opera on Skates” (363), starring figure skater Tonya Harding and her friends, briefly brought our big, diverse nation together so everyone could shake their heads in unison.

Readers will like some choices and argue with others, but that’s part of the fun of any lists book, and this one is more solid than most. The entries include an illustration, notes and further readings, and there is an 18-page index. All in all, it’s a fine option for any public library seeking a thoughtful but readily readable reference book about sports or American history.

Finding comparable reference works proved challenging. One that’s in the ballpark, so to speak, is Ernestine Miller’s *Making Her Mark: Firsts and Milestones in Women’s Sports* (Contemporary Books, 2002), but it is organized very differently. Each chapter is devoted to a particular sport and presents a chronological list of briefly summarized events. More ambitious, and frankly confusing, is Irene M. Franck and David M. Brownstone’s *Famous First Facts about Sports* (H. W. Wilson, 2001). It also is organized by particular sports

and offers several thousand “firsts” in each sport in a format that rewards the use of five long indexes more than simply browsing. Interestingly, the only illustration in this volume is another cover photo of Jackie Robinson.—*Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

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***American Indian Culture: From Counting Coup to Wampum.*** Edited by Bruce E. Johansen. Cultures of the American Mosaic. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-4408-2873-7). Ebook available (978-1-4408-2874-4), call for pricing.

In his preface to *American Indian Culture*, Editor Bruce E. Johansen outlines a highly selective approach to documenting historical and contemporary expressions of Native American cultures. Aimed at upper level-high school students and college undergraduates, this work is framed not as an encyclopedic resource but as “an introduction to a large and rich field of study” focused on “the interface of tradition and change” across cultural expressions such as art, literature, music, and dance (xiii).

Part One, which makes up less than a fifth of the text, consists of short chapters about the societies, economies, and political interactions of selected regional culture groups from pre-European contact to the present. This section also includes a general overview of forces impacting many native cultures after European invasion: disease, cultural genocide, treaties with the U.S. government, and the trade of guns and horses.

Part Two, the majority of the work, is devoted to individual essays about specific topics or persons, and has been organized around the following themes: arts; family, education, and community; food; language and literature; media, popular culture, sports, and gaming; music and dance; spirituality; and transportation and housing. Entries vary widely in scope. Broad topics such as “Pow Wows,” “Sexual Orientation,” and “Cultural Tourism,” are written through a comparative lens, drawing similarities and distinctions between individual tribes and historical versus contemporary practices. Some topics are far more narrowly focused including “Graphic Novels,” “Katsinas,” and an entry on Johnny Cash’s 1964 album *Bitter Tears*. Nearly forty entries are biographical, largely twentieth-century figures in literature, media, and sports.

The entries are densely fact-driven and well-written, with substantive lists of resources for further reading. Interspersed among the regular entries are “Spotlights” which focus on specific organizations, events, and works of culture (examples include the film *Smoke Signals*, and “The Indigenous Language Institute”).

While the entries are well-researched, the question remains as to whose research needs they might serve. The book could assist students looking for a paper topic, or just beginning to formulate ideas for research in an introductory course. For upper-level anthropology or history students, or anyone seeking information about an individual tribe or

## SOURCES

culture group, the book may be frustrating to use. While some tribes have cross-listed references in the index, many do not. The biographical entries are too few to be consulted with specific figures in mind.

Arguably, there are other books that provide this more encyclopedic view, which is outside of Johansen's stated intent. Malinowski and Sheets's *Gale Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes* (Gale, 1998) is still the go-to resource for tribe-specific chapters on history, language, and culture—though by comparison, Johansen's volume provides new coverage of contemporary literature, arts, and media. As Johansen mentions in his preface, his selective approach to cultural production necessitated the omission of content found in more comprehensive resources such as Kelly's *Encyclopedia of Native American Music in North America* (ABC-CLIO, 2013) or Reno's *Contemporary Native American Artists* (Alliance, 1995). More comprehensive biographical coverage can be found in Malinowski and Abrams's *Notable Native Americans* (Gale, 1995), Bataille and Lisa's *Native American Women: a Biographical Dictionary* (Routledge, 2001) and Johansen's own *Native Americans Today: a Biographical Dictionary* (Greenwood, 2010).

Noteworthy for its examination of contemporary cultures against a solid historical backdrop, this work is still scoped for limited use, primarily in high school and introductory college research.—*Madeline Veitch, Research, Metadata, and Zine Librarian, State University of New York at New Paltz*

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***America's First Ladies: A Historical Encyclopedia and Primary Document Collection of the Remarkable Women of the White House.*** By Nancy Hendricks. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 408 pages. acid free \$100 (ISBN 978-1-61069-882-5). Ebook available (978-1-61069-883-2), call for pricing.

*America's First Ladies: A Historical Encyclopedia and Primary Document Collection of the Remarkable Women of the White House*, by Nancy Hendricks is a complete history of the women who have often played a behind the scenes role during their time in the White House. This encyclopedia provides a thorough examination to the history of First Ladies and how they have changed since Martha Washington. In the introduction, Hendricks gives context to the position of the First Lady and includes detailed information such as when the title of First Lady was first used. Many First Ladies have been criticized, both for their lack of engagement as well as for being too engaged; this volume fills in the background of who these important women were and what they have meant to our country.

This encyclopedia distinguishes itself for two reasons. *America's First Ladies* includes primary source material in each entry. This important collection of letters written by the First Ladies, or people who knew them best, gives more insight into the lives of the women that have lived the closest to our Presidents. These writings, that are directly from the First Ladies, make this volume stand apart from other

recent publications like *First Ladies: Presidential Historians on the Lives of 45 Iconic American Women* (PublicAffairs, 2015). The editors were also able to get an early release of the data from the latest Siena Research Institute poll of the First Ladies Rankings. This data shows interesting changes from the previous rankings that were released in 2008.

*America's First Ladies* would make an excellent addition to most libraries that already have an extensive selection of Presidential material and are looking to expand the coverage of their collection. This complete history of First Ladies is a fascinating look at the women who have often been strong advocates for charitable causes and created entire support structures in the White House.—*Amy Wainwright, Outreach and Student Engagement Librarian, Grasselli Library and Breen Learning Center, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio*

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***Crips and Bloods: A Guide to an American Subculture.*** By Herbert C. Covey. Guides to Subcultures and Countercultures. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 201 pages. Acid free \$37 (ISBN 978-0-313-39929-9). Ebook available (978-0-313-39930-5), call for pricing.

The features of this slim volume include ten chapters that are arranged topically; in addition, there is a glossary, references section, and index. In the front matter, there is a very useful timeline that highlights some of the key events associated with the formation and history of the Crips and Bloods from the 1960s to 2005. In the introductory chapter, the author explains that “there is very little systematic research on the Bloods and Crips” (12), with limited and biased information being reported and published either by gang members in autobiographies or by law enforcement and government agencies. The author does a good job of offering a balanced viewpoint about these gangs (sets) by neither demonizing nor glorifying them. The author provides information about Crips' and Bloods' role in crime and drug dealing but rejects the notion that they are an organized criminal syndicate, due to their lack of hierarchical features.

The “Timeline” is further expanded upon in the second chapter “A History of the Crips and Bloods” and discusses the marginalization of people of color in Southern California through segregated neighborhoods, reduced job opportunities, cuts in public funding to schools and social programs, and the elimination of black political movements. Additional issues addressed in the book include: a list of individual risk factors associated with youth who join gangs; profiles of specific Crip and Blood members; a listing of gang values; identifying characteristics of Crips and Bloods, including colors and clothing styles, tattoos, and graffiti; Crip and Blood involvement in crime and violence; stereotypes and media representation of Crips and Bloods; and a list of rap artists who have been identified as a Crip or Blood. The concluding chapter focuses on the future of Crips and Bloods and discusses factors that will contribute to the continued existence of these gangs (sets). In discussing society's reaction to the presence of these gangs (sets) in their respective communities, the author