and its development from the Civil War onwards. She demonstrates how much of the discourse around cleanliness, sanitation, consumerism, and technology has come to be centered on the bathroom in the United States, and discusses the many forms this takes in advertising, public health, and urban and rural infrastructure.

The book begins with a brief overview of the history of the bathroom, from its earliest appearance in China and the Indus Valley through the Roman period and the Middle Ages to the mid-nineteenth century. In the following chapters, she traces the evolution of the American bathroom through different themes such as sanitation, technology, privacy, inequality, and personal care. Through each chapter she describes how the bathroom revealed how Americans perceived issues such as privacy, cleanliness, and personal autonomy, and evolved from a luxury of the rich to a staple of the middle class to a public health necessity for all. The book is jammed with interesting tidbits, for example, that Baltimore was the last major city to build a sewage system, and that the rise of modern-day advertising can be traced to early efforts by soap companies to sell their products. A chronology and glossary help define terms and set the historical context, and a rich bibliography is included for those who wish to delve deeper into the subject. Photographs judiciously used throughout the text and an index round out this compact little volume.

This is the first scholarly work devoted to the American bathroom, and it is a fascinating read. A part of Greenwood’s History of Human Spaces series, it is an affordable and well-researched volume that should find a home in every library, but would be particularly useful for college and university libraries with architecture, sociology, anthropology, or public health researchers.—Amanda K. Sprochi, Health Sciences Cataloger, The University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri


The Bizarre World of Reality Television explores the origins, rapid progression, and quirky contents of reality television programming. Written by Stuart Lenig (Columbia State Community College), this unique and compact work is an entertaining read that dissects reality television through a post-modernistic lens, detailing the economic, cultural, and social factors.

The work chronicles more than 100 important reality television shows from the medium’s early beginnings with *An American Family*, *Star Search*, and *That’s Incredible!* to current and long-running shows such as *The Bachelor* and *American Idol*. Television personalities such as Anthony Bourdain and Bethenny Frankel, as well as significant television channels (HGTV and TLC) are also highlighted. The scope of the book is somewhat limited and it is not intended to provide comprehensive coverage of reality television. Still, it fills a hole in reference sources that delve into this aspect of media.

Lenig organizes the entries across five chapters and begins each chapter with an introductory essay that provides background analysis for each type of reality television program examined. The chapters cover self-improvement and home transformation shows; competition and talent shows; personal lives; dating and matchmaking shows; and international reality television programs. Each entry provides a program history and synopsis, reasons for the show’s popularity, cross-references, and a further readings bibliography. Lenig ends the book with a concluding essay about the future of reality television, bibliography, and a useful index.

Bizarre World is recommended for public libraries and academic libraries with programs in popular culture, media studies, and sociology.—Colleen Lougen, Serials and Electronic Resources Librarian, SUNY New Paltz


The Black Lives Matter movement began as a social media hashtag (#BlackLivesMatter) by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullers, and Opal Tometi to bring awareness when George Zimmerman was acquitted in the fatal shooting of Tayvon Martin in 2012. It gained momentum in 2014 after the police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, with nationwide protests against the growing pattern of police-involved shootings of unarmed African American men. Social media has allowed the movement to organically grow by sharing videos, observations, and information.

This book is well researched and documented. It is a factual account of the people, places, and events of the Black Lives Matter movement. This book correctly situates the Black Lives Matter movement within the long history of racism in America. At 164 pages, this is not a long book, which is appropriate based on the relative newness of the formal Black Lives Matter movement. This length and the relatively small physical size of the book (6" x 9") is conducive to student checkout.

Without question, the book reflects that the Black Lives Matter movement is about people. The primary documents section is primarily speeches by New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, Eric Holder, and other officials after the investigations of police shootings of African American men. There is one intelligence report from the FBI. This section needed a brief introduction for context. The biographical sketches section provides good information on the people involved in the Black Lives Matter movement. This is a good starting point for students who want to do further research. The index emphasizes people involved in the Black Lives Matter movement. The timeline is an excellent overview of important topics in racism with good detail of the incidents within the Black Lives Matter movement. There is strong