

light on old mysteries” (West, p. 4). The author examining and deconstructing the contents of the declassified documents and connecting the dots historically is invaluable for researchers.

This examination is also what sets this volume apart from previous publications that covered this topic. *Assassinations and Executions: An Encyclopedia of Political Violence, 1900–2000*, by Harris M. Lentz III, is a popular volume in many library collections and, prior to *Encyclopedia of Political Assassinations*, was one of the only encyclopedic resources on the topic. However, due to the nature of the volume, the entries in *Assassinations and Executions* are less substantial and do not offer the same level of detail and contextual information. The difference in the depth of coverage can be seen throughout the volumes, but an excellent example is the coverage of the assassination of John F. Kennedy. In both encyclopedias’ entries, the events leading up to and following the assassination are listed, but that is where the similarities end. Lentz’s entry does an excellent job relaying the facts and briefly mentions the major conspiracies surrounding the assassination, but he doesn’t delve any deeper as the objective of his publication was to “present a concise look at the many world leaders who met their end in a violent manner during the 20th century” (Lentz, p. xi). In contrast, West’s treatment of the same topic provides the reader with not only the essential facts but also a discussion on the possible motivations of key figures involved in the assassination and the investigation that followed. Documents that were released long after Lentz’s work was published greatly aided West’s analysis, and researchers and enthusiasts alike will consider this new information fascinating.

This resource provides readers with well-researched, informative entries. It is also different from previous volumes that cover the topic because the author had access to the recently released documents pertaining to assassinations that had a major impact historically. It is a relatively inexpensive volume, and I believe it would be a valuable addition to public or academic libraries as the topic has mass appeal and the treatment of the topic is exceptional.—*Marissa Ellermann, Head of Circulation Services Librarian, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois*

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***Encyclopedia of Public Health: Principles, Peoples, and Programs.*** Edited by Sally Kuykendall. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2018. 2 vols. Acid-free \$198 (ISBN 978-1-61069-982-2). E-book Available (978-1-61069-983-9), call for pricing.

The *Encyclopedia of Public Health: Principles, Peoples, and Programs*, a new addition to Greenwood’s health reference catalog, provides a solid resource for libraries looking for a good, low-cost encyclopedia for their public health collection. Dr. Sally Kuykendall, the editor, is a professor of health services at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia and an independent evaluator of public health programs. She has assembled a knowledgeable team of public health experts,

health scientists, and medical historians as contributors, who present topics relating to public health in an easily-readable format for general readers. The two volumes present signed articles alphabetically by entry, with cross-references and bibliographies. The text is scattered throughout with black and white illustrations. Both volumes contain a contents section, a guide to related topics that groups articles by theme, a chronology, and an introduction. Volume 2 contains a glossary, a list of organizations and contributors, and a comprehensive index, as well as a section on “Controversies in public health,” which discusses hot button issues like anti-vaccination trends and health care for undocumented immigrants. Kuykendall maintains an even tone and fair treatment of all sides, allowing both pro- and anti-sides of an issue their say.

Given the length restriction of a two-volume set, it is understandable that not all topics are going to be exhaustively covered, but Kuykendall and her authors have done an excellent job of covering the main public health areas of interest. If there is one negative, it would be that Kuykendall has written many of the articles herself or with contributors; more diversity in the voices contributing to the volume would be welcome. However, that is a small quibble for a good resource.

There is a plethora of public health encyclopedias out there, including Academic Press’ multi-volume *International Encyclopedia of Public Health* (2017), Springer’s *Encyclopedia of Public Health* (2008), and Gale’s *Encyclopedia of Public Health* (second edition expected in 2020). However, some of these are either dated or quite expensive. At its \$198 price point, the *Encyclopedia of Public Health: Principles, Peoples, and Programs* is a solid, affordable resource for libraries needing public health information for general readers. Recommended for upper level K–12 students, undergraduates, and public libraries.—*Amanda K. Sprochi, Health Sciences Cataloger, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri*

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***From Smartphones to Social Media: How Technology Affects Our Brains and Behavior.*** By Mark Carrier. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2018. Acid free \$94 (ISBN 978-1-4408-5178-0). E-book Available (978-1-4408-5179-7), call for pricing.

Many consider the release of the Apple iPhone in 2007 as being the moment, and the device, that brought the smartphone into the hands of millions of consumers. Today, smartphones and social media sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, are ingrained into the human experience for countless millions of people. But how do these technologies and social spaces impact our brains and the ways in which they function? *From Smartphones to Social Media: How Technology Affects Our Brains and Behavior* attempts to help clarify these questions, and many more, as they pertain to the technology we carry with us every day and the digital social spaces that we access and participate on with these devices.

## SOURCES

According to author Mark Carrier, “This book focuses on the most recent five to ten years of research into new ICT (information and communications technologies)” (p. xiii). This single-volume reference set is organized into ten chapters. Each chapter runs about 25 pages in length, resulting in a lean 250 page count. Several subheadings provide structure and flow within each chapter and make finding desired information within the book easier, given the length of each chapter. Topics covered in this set include social relationships, electronic aggression, dating and sexual behavior, information and attention, and emotions. The volume concludes with a glossary of terms used throughout the set, a section of citations for curious researchers to continue their research, and an index.

Easily one of the more unique features of this volume is found at the end of each chapter. After the conclusion of each chapter, Mark Carrier includes a section called “Interview with an Expert,” where a psychologist specializing in the content of the chapter provides additional insight into the topic in the form of an interview. Questions posed to these experts include “When someone is driven to use technology, what is happening in his or her brain biochemically?” (p. 122) and “What does research say about the impact of technology on positive and negative emotions?” (p. 223). Each interview adds greatly to the content covered in the chapter and sets it apart from many other, similar reference sets.

If there is a critique one could levy against this volume, it would be related to the overall writing style and structure of the set. The lengthy chapters are all written in a style, flow, and structure that is typically found in many traditional, nonreference psychology books. One can easily find themselves reading this book cover-to-cover, rather than seeking a specific piece of information on a specific topic quickly and then moving on to another source. For this reason, many might decide that this set would better serve its readers in a circulating collection, as opposed to a noncirculating reference collection.

The content contained in this set will be of great value to psychology students studying the impact of communication technologies and social media on human behavior. The “Interview with an Expert” section located at the end of each chapter is a unique feature that adds to the value of this set. It is an easy volume to recommend be added to academic libraries. That being said, it’s more textbook-like structure lends it to be read cover-to-cover, which is not a typical characteristic for a reference set. Many might find it a better fit as a circulating volume within their library.—*Matthew Laudicina, Senior Reference Librarian, Manuscripts and Special Collections, New York State Library, Albany, New York.*

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***Gangland: An Encyclopedia of Gang Life from Cradle to Grave.*** Edited by Laura L. Finley. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2018. 2 vols. Acid-free \$198 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4473-7). E-book Available (978-1-4408-4474-4), call for pricing.

The existence of gangs and the impact of gang-related criminal activity on communities in the United States has

been an issue examined by criminologists and law enforcement officials for decades. While the focus of such inquiry has historically been centered on the harm caused by gangs, it is often overlooked that such groups also have been known to engage in pursuits resulting in social good. In *Gangland: An Encyclopedia of Gang Life from Cradle to Grave*, editor Laura L. Finley endeavors to demystify common gang misperceptions regarding this both intriguing and terrifying facet of the American population.

This two-volume encyclopedia contains over two hundred entries authored by criminologists, community professionals, students, and journalists, which detail the formation, history, membership, purpose, activities, and evolution of the nation’s most prominent gangs. Entries also highlight gang-related books, documentaries and films, programs and initiatives, court cases, those individuals involved in gang reduction efforts, collateral consequences of gang-related criminal activity, and criminological theories relative to gang endeavors. Photographs and excerpts from primary source documents associated with each of the aforesaid topics provide additional context and perspective.

Finley begins with an introduction that discusses the volumes’ objectives, provides common gang characteristics, and describes the various types of gangs including hate, prison, street, and motorcycle gangs. The preliminary materials also include a segment concerning the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s gang classification criteria and how such designations impact arrest and prosecution. This section concludes with a description of those legal initiatives designed to respond to and prevent gang activity. This is followed by a relatively lengthy history of gangs in the United States accompanied by a chronology that begins with the first appearance of gangs in New York City in the 1820s and ends with events occurring in 2017. These two sections provide important background information supporting the entries that focus on the various gangs themselves.

The relatively brief entries afford limited topical coverage and will therefore be of value only to those seeking an introduction to the material. Depth aside, Finley provides a wide range of topics, which serve to shed light on a plethora of issues not merely about individual gangs but concerning such concomitant issues as how criminologists have studied them and even how they have been depicted in popular culture. Furthermore, the inclusion of see also subject terms, a guide to related topics beginning each volume, and a generous compilation of recommended resources including books, documentary and feature films, journals, and online resources provide an extensive array of suggestions for additional investigation.

*Gangland: An Encyclopedia of Gang Life from Cradle to Grave* is unique from other gang-related reference materials primarily in terms of its scope. While Finley accurately describes many of the most notable gangs of the United States, she is not predominantly concerned with constitution, recruitment, organization, purpose, and other identifying characteristics. Instead, this encyclopedia has a much