

6-1-2006

Encyclopedia of Rap and Hip Hop Culture (Review)

Sue Polanka

Wright State University - Main Campus, sue.polanka@wright.edu

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Repository Citation

Polanka, S. (2006). Encyclopedia of Rap and Hip Hop Culture (Review). *Booklist*, 102 (9-10), 118.
https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/ul_pub/17

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Reference Books Bulletin

Adult Reference

Encyclopedia of Rap and Hip Hop

Culture. By Yvonne Bynoe. 2005. 449p. illus. index. Greenwood, \$69.95 (0-313-33058-1). 782.421649.

According to author Bynoe, "Hip Hop is a cultural expression that encompasses music, narrative poetry, dance, and art as reflected by its original four elements." Those elements are DJing, MCing (rapping), B-boying (break dancing), and graffiti or aerosol art. Bynoe presents each of these elements in this encyclopedia.

Entries, ranging from *A+* to *Zulu Nation*, include biographical or descriptive information, popular songs or albums, apparel and other marketing ventures of artists, and, in

several cases, highlights of artists' criminal offenses. Entries are alphabetical, either by the artist's real last name, or stage name, if the latter is more prevalent. Real names appear in brackets next to stage names but are not cross-referenced or listed in the index. Music-related entries also include a discography with known original recordings or a selection of the artist's complete works.

A list of entries, a preface, an introduction, two appendixes, a bibliography, and an index are included. The introduction offers a historical and cultural look at hip-hop. Appendixes provide a selected rap discography, including recordings of hip-hop and rap classics, and "Statements to Preserve and Appreciate Hip Hop Culture," aka "The Hip Hop Declaration of Peace" unveiled at the UN on May 16, 2002. A selected bibliography includes a

sampling of the more credible books, articles, and Web sites on hip-hop.

The indexing and cross-referencing are incomplete. For example, the *U.T.F.O.* is made up of four group members: Doctor Ice, the Kangol Kid, the Educated Rapper, and Mix-Master Ice. None of the group members are listed in the index, nor is there a cross-reference in the index from UnTouchable Force Organization to *U.T.F.O.* Uninformed hip-hop researchers may have difficulty navigating with the inconsistent indexing and cross-references.

Even with its indexing problems, the encyclopedia is a great addition to music and cultural reference collections. The *All Music Guide to Hip-Hop* (Backbeat Books, 2003) includes 20 essays on rap and hip-hop topics but nothing as thorough as this encyclopedia. It is by no means a complete look at a huge and diverse topic, particularly the international scene, but will complement reference collections. —*Sue Polanka*

YA: *A high-interest topic for teens. MEQ.*

Encyclopedia of the Global Economy: A

Guide for Students and Researchers. 2v. By David E. O'Connor. 2006. 896p. illus. index. Greenwood, \$250 (0-313-33584-2). 330.03.

An International Monetary Fund Issues Brief notes that some people see globalization as key to future world economic development, while others regard it with hostility and fear, believing that it increases inequality within and between nations, threatens employment and living standards, and thwarts social progress. Author O'Connor makes clear in his preface that he is in the first camp, yet the encyclopedia presents a balanced view of the issues central to understanding economic globalization.

Volume 1 consists of 168 succinct and clearly written entries that cover the people (from Adam Smith to former World Bank president James Wolfensohn), organizations (both governmental and private), and concepts central to the discussion. Hot-button topics such as *Brain drain*, *Digital divide*, *Dumping*, and *Offshoring* are highlighted along with more classical economic concepts such as *Balance of payments* and *Capitalism*. All entries include cross-references to related entries and documents as well as a list of further readings, most of which are from the last five years. Readers preferring a topical approach will appreciate the guide to related topics, which groups entries into 12 broad categories, including "Economic Growth and Sustainable Economic Development," "International Trade," and "Poverty and Income Distribution." The generous use of tables, graphs, and photographs enlivens and illuminates the text. Volume 2 provides the text of 59 primary documents that represent the

STARRED REVIEWS

We've starred our reviews of *The Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619–1895: From the Colonial Period to the Age of Frederick Douglass* (p.120), *Encyclopedia of Anthropology* (p.122), and *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (p.130).

Encyclopedia of Anthropology fills a gap, being the first encyclopedia to offer a broad overview of the topic. The other titles, however, have some competition. *The Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619–1895*, the first of a pair of complementary sets from Oxford, is the third big set on African Americans to be published in the past year or so, following *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience* (also from Oxford) and *Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History: The Black Experience in the Americas* (Macmillan). And although the first, 1967 edition of *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* was the first major philosophical reference work in English since 1901, the second edition appears at a time when a number of other equally authoritative resources, including free Internet sites, are available.

CLASSIC REFERENCE

Encyclopedia of Philosophy is one of those foundational reference sets that help define a field. In our review of the first edition, we called it "a much needed authoritative synthesis of mid-twentieth century philosophy," and the new edition brings it up-to-date for the twenty-first century. It surely qualifies as a reference classic, but do you need it? At the 2005 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, *Reference Books Bulletin* sponsored a program, "What Makes a Reference Work a Classic?" and on p.124 in this issue we've printed slightly condensed versions of two of the presentations. Merle Jacob presents a down-to-earth view of reference classics and where they fit in collection development, and Jim Rettig discusses how the Internet might change the way we define classics in the future.

READERS' ADVISOR ADVISOR

Libraries Unlimited, publisher of the well-known and ever-expanding Genreflecting Advisory series, has launched another series, called Read On, edited by Barry Trott. The new series represents a more informal approach to readers' advisory, with book lists based on appeal factors rather than on the types of categories found in standard genre guides, subject indexes, or library catalogs. The first title in the series, *Read On—Historical Fiction: Reading Lists for Every Taste*, was written by *Booklist's* own Adult Books Editor Brad Hooper and is the subject of *Books by Booklist Authors* on p.142. The second titles in the series will cover the horror genre.

—MARY ELLEN QUINN (mqinn@ala.org)

NEWS and VIEWS