July 1914: Countdown to War  
By: McMeekin, Sean  
DS11 .M33 2013

Review from: Publisher’s Weekly  
January 28, 2013

McMeekin’s newest... is a superbly researched political history of the weeks between the assassination of Austria’s Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the beginning of World War I. Relying on extensive research in numerous archives, as well as diaries and correspondence from key national leaders... McMeekin's work is a fine diplomatic history of the period, a must-read for serious students of WWI, and a fascinating story for anyone interested in modern history.

Embers of War: the Fall of an Empire and the Making of America’s Vietnam  
By: Logevall, Fredrik  
DS553.1 .L64 2012

Review from: Booklist  
July 1, 2012

Most American studies of the Vietnam War concentrate on the period following the introduction of U.S. combat units under President Johnson. However, contemporary Vietnamese accounts view the American phase as the concluding act of a prolonged nationalist struggle to gain independence from Western imperialism... As Logevall eloquently illustrates, the U.S. followed essentially the same dreary path and made the same errors as its French predecessors. We failed to comprehend the nationalist yearnings of Vietnamese communists and were blind to their support among a wide swath of the people. That blindness led us to prop up hopelessly inept or hopelessly compromised Vietnamese leaders like Ngo Dinh Diem. This is a superbly written and well-argued reinterpretation of our tragic experience in Vietnam.

38 Nooses: Lincoln, Little Crow, and the Beginning of the Frontier’s End  
By: Berg, Scott W.  
E83.86 .B47 2012

Review from: Booklist  
November 1, 2012

In 1862, the various bands of the Dakota, or eastern Sioux, fed up with broken treaties and the delay of promised annuities, rose up in an orgy of violence that terrorized white settlements in Minnesota. When it was suppressed, hundreds of settlers and Dakota were dead, the Dakota were forcibly relocated, and 38 leaders of the rebellion were executed in a mass hanging. As Berg indicates, the grievances and the clumsy, confused, and vindictive responses of the military and federal government set a pattern for the further tragedies that characterizes the wars against the Plains Indians... This is a valuable but understandably depressing account of an obscure but important episode in our history.

I am a Man: Chief Standing Bear’s Journey for Justice  
By: Starita, Joe  
E99 .P7 S837 2010

Review from: Publisher’s Weekly  
September 29, 2008

In 1879, Ponca chief Standing Bear challenged decades of Indian policy when he stood in a federal courthouse in Omaha, Neb., and demanded to be recognized as a person by the U.S. government. Journalist Starita masterfully portrays the chief’s story in this compelling narrative of injustices finally righted. The Ponca, relocated from their beloved Niobrara River valley to the harsh plains of Oklahoma, found unlikely allies in a Nebraska newspaper man and a lifelong Indian fighter.... Starita transforms what could have been a dry academic survey of U.S. Indian policy into an engaging yarn, full of drama and sudden revelations.

Born on a Mountaintop: On the Road with Davy Crockett and the Ghosts of the Wild Frontier  
By: Thompson, Bob  
F436 .C95 T54 2012

Review from: Library Journal  
February 15, 2013

Providing a splendid foray into the popular culture of American frontiersman Davy Crockett, Thompson (former Washington Post journalist and editor) follows in Crockett’s footsteps from his Tennessee roots to his death in Texas. Crockett has long been considered a hero of the Battle of the Alamo and aggressively commercialized across America... Documenting his work with basic historical sources, Thompson seeks to understand Crockett's spirit by delving into the consciousness of modern society, which means recognizing and understanding the influence of Walt Disney, Fess Parker, and others. VERDICT An enjoyable and entertaining account of Thompson coming to terms with the Tennessee congressman and frontier hero, and ultimately demonstrating the continuing relevance of the Crockett legend to Texas and America. This will be a popular read in public libraries and among Western enthusiasts.
Business: the Ultimate Resource
By: intr. by Goleman, Daniel
REF HD38.15 .B878 2011

Review from: Booklist January 15, 2003
...Although it fits into the traditional category of specialized desktop encyclopedia, the editors have done a wonderfully innovative job of designing it for the time-pressed, eye-weary business executive...Business is arranged into stylishly presented sections...The "Dictionary" gives definitions of more than 5,000 international business terms, acronyms, and abbreviations, and the "World Business Almanac" contains statistics, facts, and figures, including profiles of more than 150 countries, 50 U.S. states, and 24 key industry sectors. The final section, "Business Information Sources," lists more than 3,000 Web sites, books, journals, magazines, and organizations. The volume closes with an exhaustive 32-page index...Business is highly recommended both for library and individual purchase.

Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead
By: Sandberg, Sheryl
HD6054.3 .S77 2013

Review from: Publisher’s Weekly January 21, 2013
Facebook COO Sandberg examines the dearth of women in major leadership positions, and what women can do to solve the problem, in this provocative tome. While acknowledging that women have made great strides in the business world, she posits that they still have a long way to go and lays out a plan for women to get there...The author’s counsel—gleaned from her own experiences—includes suggestions for increasing self-confidence, particularly in the business world; understanding the role of mentors and how to identify them; building emotional relationships at work; not focusing on being liked; juggling marriage and children with a demanding job; and the importance of taking risks...A new generation of women will learn from Sandberg’s experiences, and those of her own generation will be inspired by this thoughtful and practical book.

No Easy Day: the Autobiography of a Navy SEAL: the firsthand account of the mission that killed Osama bin Laden
By: Owen, Mark, with Kevin Maurer
HV 6515 .O9 2012

Review from: Booklist October 1, 2012
Mark Owen is a pseudonym for Matt Bissonnette, a Navy SEAL who took part in the 2011 raid on a compound in Pakistan that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden. His muscular memoir was cowritten by Maurer, a journalist who has covered American special-ops forces for nearly a decade, including a stint as an embedded reporter in Iraq...His version of events has already sparked some controversy—no surprise there, since the mission itself is still a controversial subject but it doesn’t feel as though Owen intended to add fuel to the fire. Incendiary subject matter aside, this might feel somewhat familiar due to its thematic similarities to such books as Anthony Swofford’s Jarhead, Evan Wright’s Generation Kill, and Mark Bowden’s Black Hawk Down. Like those modern classics, No Easy Day doesn’t merely tell war stories it also explores the culture of war and what it means to be a soldier.

The Big Switch: Rewiring the World, from Edison to Google
By: Carr, Nicholas
QA76.9 .C66 2013

Review from: Booklist November 15, 2007
Carr...examines the future of the Internet, which he says may one day completely replace the desktop PC as all computing services are delivered over the Net as a utility, the Internet morphing into one giant World Wide Computer. Comparing the situation now to the massive technological shift that took place during the wide-scale adoption of electricity, Carr shows how the first power utilities allowed companies that were generating their own power to free up those resources once electricity became available cheaply and reliably over a network...Carr warns that the downside of the World Wide Computer and the democratization of ideas may mean further concentration of wealth for the few, and the loss of jobs, privacy, and the depth of our culture.

The Joy of X: a Guided Tour of Math, from One to Infinity
By: Strogatz, Steven
QA93 .S77 2012

Review from: Publisher’s Weekly July 9, 2012
Even the most math-phobic readers might forget their dread after just a few pages of Strogatz’s (The Calculus of Friendship) latest. The author, a Cornell professor of applied mathematics, begins with arithmetic, by way of Sesame Street, then explores algebra, geometry, and, finally, the wonders of calculus—all done cheerfully, with many a wry turn of phrase...Brisk chapters on prime numbers, basic statistics, and probability are all enlightening without being intimidating. Most impressive is Strogatz’s coverage of calculus, the math used to figure out everything from how fast epidemics spread to the trajectory of a curveball. Readers will appreciate this lighthearted and thoroughly entertaining book.