Automate This: How Algorithms Came to Rule Our World
By: Steiner, Christopher
QA9.58 .S75 2012

Review from: Choice March 01, 2013
This book focuses on the implantation and reception of automation technology in various areas through the use of algorithms ("bots") and machine learning. Steiner, an author/journalist and engineer, paints a clear picture of how automation was accepted in professions that were thought immune to it. The author covers the advantages and disadvantages of algorithms, giving the text a well-balanced feel. The clearest advantage that he points out is the exploitation of markets or the creation of new markets. The description of the investing community's grasping for technology-based advantages is reminiscent of the Cold War race.

The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II
By: Kiernan, Denise
F444.O3 K54 2013

Review from: Booklist February 01, 2013
Atomic-bomb history includes works about the communities of workers attached to the main installations where the first nuclear weapon was built. Kiernan's contribution covers Oak Ridge, Tennessee, site of enormous factories built to separate uranium isotopes. A type of oral history, Kiernan's account derives from her intensive interviews with 10 women who, in their youth, labored in a range of occupations at Oak Ridge, from janitor to machine operator to secretary to engineer. With surrounding scaffolding of the scientific fundamentals and the 1942-45 technical development of the bomb, the narrative runs as a collection of individuals' life stories that recall circumstances of recruitment and the spartan conditions at Oak Ridge, on and off the job.

The Caning of Charles Sumner: Honor, Idealism, and the Origins of the Civil War
By: Hoffer, Williamjames
E434.8 .H64 2010

Review from: Booklist June 1, 2010
On May 22, 1856, Preston S. Brooks, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from South Carolina, entered the Senate chamber. In an attack that lasted about a minute, Brooks repeatedly bludgeoned a defenseless Senator Charles Sumner with a silver-edged cane. The severely injured Sumner endured a lengthy recovery. Brooks was convicted but paid only a nominal fine. Hoffer, professor of history, recounts preceding events, the attack itself, as well as the aftermath in an excellent work of historical analysis. As Hoffer illustrates, the consequences were probably more significant than the attack itself. In the North, Brooks was reviled as a bully and thuggish agent of the slave power. Southerners cheered him and sent him new canes. Despite the title, Hoffer does not assert that the incident caused the Civil War.

The Secrets of Alchemy
By: Principe, Lawrence
QD13 .P75 2013

Review from: Choice May 01, 2013
Principe (Johns Hopkins) is a professor of chemistry and the history of science, and the highly regarded author of previous books on science history and on alchemists. This new volume is both a scholarly and a lively successor to such valuable earlier works as E. J. Holmyard's Alchemy (1957) and F. Sherwood Taylor's The Alchemists (1949). In the more than half century since these earlier books appeared, many new scholarly works have been published that study original alchemical texts, some by Principe himself, and this new book incorporates the new views of alchemy that have developed. For those who want to read an absorbing short history of alchemy, Principe's book is the text of choice. It corrects many errors of interpretation in earlier books and brings modern scholarship to bear on this fascinating field that was one ancestor of modern chemistry.

Eisenhower: In War and Peace
By: Smith, Jean Edward
E836 .S56 2012

Review from: Booklist November 01, 2011
Historian Smith avers that Eisenhower's accomplishments as a general and a president have receded from our understanding, although extant biographies by Stephen Ambrose, Carlo d'Este, Michael Korda, and Geoffrey Perret imply that readers still like Ike. Smith dwells primarily on Eisenhower's ascent in the army and how his military experience affected his presidency. A peripatetic narrative accordingly unfolds, pegged to Eisenhower's postings from West Point to Europe in WWII. Despite the seeming inevitability of Eisenhower's rise, Smith emphasizes the role luck played in his military career. He only received an active-duty assignment because an officer overrode a medical decision that Ike was physically unfit due to an old football injury.
The Secrets of College Success
By: Jacobs, Lynn F.
LB2343.32 .J35 2010

Review from: School Library Journal December 01, 2010
Gr 9 Up—Full of practical and easy-to-implement tips, this handbook is written in brief segments, perfect for the short attention span of the YouTube generation. While covering the basics found in other "how to be successful in college"-type books (study skills, time management, test-taking tips), this one also has sections on other issues that students will likely face: how to get into a closed class, studying abroad, working with a professor, and getting one's money's worth. Topics are approached with humor, but there is a serious undertone throughout: college is expensive, so their philosophy in a nutshell is to do the work, make the grades, and graduate...

Community College Student Success: From Boardrooms to Classrooms
By: Morest, Vanessa Smith
LB2328 .M587 2013

Review from: Booklist December 15, 2012
Nearly half of the nation's college students are enrolled in community colleges, yet little has been written about the community-college experience. The rising cost of college education and the need for education reform have sparked greater attention to the nation's community colleges, and Morest addresses the specific challenges of students often low income, minority, and immigrant who opt for a community-college education. Morest, a dean at a community college in Connecticut, examines issues from the challenges of fortifying students' academic skills to providing financial aid to boosting graduation rates. She begins with a historical perspective and developments that have led to increased attention to community colleges. Morest focuses on three approaches to improving the success of community-college students: using technology to enhance academics and student services, socializing students often commuters to bind with their colleges, and improving the quality of the teachers and curriculum.

1,227 Quite Interesting Facts to Blow Your Socks Off
By: Lloyd, John; John Mitchinson and James Harkin (Authors)
AG243 .L56 2013

Review from: Library Journal July 01, 2013
The authors of this fun-facts roundup are affiliated with the BBC quiz panel show QI (Quite Interesting), which has inspired several tie-ins already, including The Book of General Ignorance (LJ 8/07) and The Second Book of General Ignorance, (LJ 9/15/11), the latter employing a question-and-answer format to address such burning topics as how to milk a yak. As its title suggests, this new work is less structured in approach, although an index helps to discover such nuggets as “Mushrooms are more closely related to humans than [to] plants.” No source material is cited for these quite interesting facts, but perhaps that's not quite the point.

The Heart of Everything That is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud, an American Legend
By: Drury, Bob; Tom Clavin (Authors)
E99.O3 R3725 2013

Review from: Library Journal September 01, 2013
Red Cloud (1822-1909) was an Oglala Sioux war chief who successfully led Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Sioux warriors against the U.S. Army. The war was sparked by the 1863 construction of the Bozeman Trail, which connected Montana's gold fields to the Oregon Trail in violation of the 1851 Fort Laramie Treaty. From 1866 to 1868, Red Cloud proved such a brilliant tactician that the United States sued for peace to end what became known as Red Cloud's War. The resulting Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 found the United States pledging to stay out of the Sioux hunting grounds and to close the Bozeman Trail. In exchange, Red Cloud and his people pledged to live in peace on the Great Sioux Reservation...

Working the Land: The Stories of Ranch and Farm Women in the Modern American West
By: Schackel, Sandra K.
F596 .S258 2011

Review from: Choice December 01, 2011
Though there is increasing academic interest in the experiences of rural women, few books provide the level of personal details, histories, and stories about the lived experience of rural ranch and farm daughters/wives/mothers--either historically or in modern times--as does Working the Land. The book's most impressive aspect is that an academic historian wrote it, but it reads almost like a novel. Schackel (emer., history, Boise State Univ.) does not just tell the stories of rural farm and ranch women; she weaves their stories together within the context of the important and ongoing decline in the idea of the family farm and its economic root causes. Each story illustrates an important theme of what is happening to agriculture in the modern western US.