The Cancer Chronicles: Unlocking Medicine's Deepest Mystery
By: Johnson, George
RC268.48 .J64 2013
Review from: Library Journal September 15, 2013
Science journalist Johnson (The Ten Most Beautiful Experiments) does a solid job of weaving together the stories of his wife’s cancer diagnosis and recovery and his brother’s death from cancer with his research on the disease. Johnson does more than just explore current disease diagnoses and treatments. He looks at cancer in other species, prehistoric and historic human populations, and fossils, including those of dinosaurs, trying to discover information on the origins of cancer and comparing past and present incidences of the disease. Johnson considers epidemiology and finds that many of the environmental hazards that people assume cause cancer are not always proven culprits. He also investigates pharmaceutical companies that develop cancer drugs and the workings of treatment centers. Throughout, Johnson tries to base his writings on the facts he has found reading scientific papers and talking with scientists, rather than relying on misleading headlines in newspapers and magazines.

Public Lands, Public Debates: A Century of Controversy
By: Miller, Char
SD426 .M54 2012
Review from: Choice November 01, 2012
Public Lands, Public Debates by environmental historian Miller (Pomona College) is an excellent, engaging compilation of articles that reveal history and policy making in US federal land management with a focus on the US Forest Service (with reference to other agencies). Many chapters start with a current issue and move back a century to the roots of the issue; other chapters start in the 1800s or focus exclusively on the 21st century. The book’s strength is its accessibility to a wide range of readers while simultaneously offering deep analysis. Topics range from the role of leadership (e.g., Pinchot), to institutional development, the impact of legislation, and current issues in the 21st century, including international concerns.

The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History
By: Edsel, Robert M. and Bret Witter
D810.A7 E23 2013
Review from: Library Journal October 15, 2010
Adolf Hitler's plan for the subjugation of the world included its culture and treasures. Art was to be taken from conquered countries and stored in Germany until Hitler could build the world's largest museum complex in his hometown of Linz, Austria. It was the job of the Monuments Men (as they came to be called) to track down these missing treasures during the latter years of the war. This story concentrates on Northwest Europe only, where men (and at least one woman) from 13 nations, largely from professional arts-related backgrounds and past combat age, effectively saved much of European culture from a gang of murderous thieves. This intriguing story, told largely through letters written by the rescuers and now in various government archives, will appeal to many general and military history readers.

They Killed Our President: 63 Reasons to Believe There Was a Conspiracy to Assassinate JFK
By: Ventura, Jesse and Dick Russell, and David Wayne (Authors)
E842.9 .V44 2013
Review from: Library Journal September 15, 2013
An In-Depth Investigation into the Mysterious Deaths of Witnesses to the JFK Assassination and Dick Russell (On the Trail of the JFK Assassins), Ventura focuses on what is arguably the most obsessed-over historical event in U.S. history. It should come as no surprise that Ventura rejects entirely the findings of the Warren Commission. Picking apart everything from the type of gun Lee Harvey Oswald actually used to the silencing of numerous witnesses, Ventura cannot seem to find anything worth believing from the official account of the event or subsequent studies. His "reasons" are divided among "The Evidence," "The Cover-Up," "The Witnesses," and "The Why, Who and How" -with dozens of magazine articles, websites, and other JFK conspiracy titles cited. Ventura writes in a bombastic voice that grates before long. Evidently Russell and Wayne did little to clean up his turgid style.

Overland West: So Rugged and Mountainous: Blazing the Trails to Oregon and California, 1812-1848
By: Bagley, Will
Review from: Choice December 01, 2010
Bagley, award-winning author of more than a dozen academic books on the western fur trade and the overland trails era, has provided another landmark study of the pioneer experience. First and foremost, he presents the story of the land itself, and explains how its topography and resources dictated the patterns of western travel and settlement. He likewise analyzes the transformation of Indian life in all the areas served by the Oregon and California trails between 1841 and 1848...
**Will Rogers : A Political Life**
By: White, Richard D. Jr.
PN2287.R74 W45 2011

This is the first biography of Rogers (1879-1935), entertainer, columnist, and pundit, to focus largely on his political influence. White examines Rogers, one of the most famous men of his day, as an intellectual with a humble touch, a man of prescience on national and global affairs and with substantial influence upon American politicians and plain folk alike. He argues that Rogers played a strong role shaping American opinion on topics from Prohibition and intervention in global affairs—both of which he ardently opposed— to New Deal policies and commercial air flight—which he backed. White reviews Rogers’s trips as unofficial envoy to China and the Soviet Union, as well as his fallibility in embracing some of history’s villains, in particular Mussolini, because he had "never met a man he didn’t like."

**Viruses: a Very Short Introduction**
By: Crawford, Dorothy H.
QR364 .C733 2011

Review from: *Choice* July 01, 2012
Viruses is part of a series of primers published by Oxford on a variety of topics. Crawford attempts to accomplish the difficult task of explaining the salient points of virology in one small volume with varying success. The text does a good job of describing the vast diversity of viruses present on the planet. In some chapters, the use of two virus-host systems in a compare-and-contrast construct is not particularly effective. Switching between the systems disrupts the flow of the discussion and would likely be confusing to the non-virologist. In some attempts to use analogies to explain virus-host interactions the examples stray into teleological or inaccurate descriptions; for example, viruses "tickling" cells or viruses "learning" to infect different cell types. The book has some nuggets of excellence as well, such as the well-written discussions of HIV-AIDS and noroviruses.

**Higher Education in the Digital Age [electronic resource]**
By: Bowen, William G. and Kelly A. Lack
LB2395.7 .B67 2013

Education and economics strategist Bowen (president emeritus, Andrew J. Mellon Fdn, Princeton Univ.) identifies two complex issues generating concern and speculation in digital learning among higher education: "cost disease" and the potential for technology-based teaching and learning. Based on the 2012 Tanner Lectures delivered at Stanford University, this title explains how education is organizationally expensive, that the current costs are not yet too damaging for students and families, but stresses the need for colleges to control expenses. He describes approaches to online learning, distinguishes the difference between useful and unnecessary educational practices, and encourages an evidence-based introduction to technology...

**The Student’s Guide to Financial Literacy**
By: Lawless, Robert E.
HG179 .L3378 2010

Review from: *School Library Journal* July 01, 2010
This title covers everything young adults just starting out in the world should be thinking about with respect to their future financial decisions. It begins with the fact that getting a college degree will mean more lifetime earnings, and from there springs into what exactly one should be doing with those earnings. Beginning with savings, then investments, Lawless breaks the material down into small, digestible sections. Some of the types of investments, such as financial derivatives and private equity funds, along with the section on "Principals [sic] of Investing," are sophisticated and more "College Finance 101" than high school level stuff...

**Made in the USA[electronic resource]: The Rise and Retreat of American Manufacturing**
By: Smil, Vaclav
HD9725 .S57 2013

Smil brings his intellect and interdisciplinary perspective to the history of industrialization and deindustrialization in America to argue that owing to American inventiveness, access to cheap energy and raw materials, and management expertise, America was transformed in the late 19th century into the world’s most productive and powerful industrial nation. In particular, Smil notes that steel making, auto production, and innovation in information communication and organization helped America win two world wars and, in the post-World War II era, to create the first mass-consumption society. The author seeks to refute the fashionable economic notion that the country can prosper with a postindustrial, service-based economy and does so convincingly. Societies that manufacture little at home, he explains, are dependent on foreign countries for the basic tools of economic prosperity, and low-wage service sector jobs undermine the middle class created by America’s manufacturing economy...