Featured Titles, July 2012

*The Disappearing Spoon and Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements*
By: Kean, Sam
QD466.K37 2010

Review from: *Library Journal*  November 1, 2010
Science magazine writer Kean’s first book presents fascinating anecdotes about each of the known elements of the periodic table and the scientists who discovered them...how gallium became the prime element for chemical pranksters (it dissolves in ordinary tea—hence, the title). Kean’s love for science, invention, investigation, and discovery shines in this flow of fun facts...

*Debtor Nation: the History of America in Red Ink*
By: Hyman, Louis
HG3756.U54 H96 2011

Review from: *Choice*  January 1, 2011
Beautifully written, painstakingly documented, and altogether persuasive, the book provides a comprehensive look at the history of consumer debt in the U.S. . . . [*Debtor Nation*] is a must read for anyone who wants to understand the modern credit system in the U.S. It manages to weave together a long history of developments within America's credit markets in a narrative that is both fascinating and frightening.

*The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America*
By: Larson, Erik
HV6248.M8 L37 2004

Not long after Jack the Ripper haunted the ill-lit streets of 1888 London, H.H. Holmes (born Herman Webster Mudgett) dispatched somewhere between 27 and 200 people, mostly single young women, in the churning new metropolis of Chicago; many of the murders occurred during (and exploited) the city's finest moment, the World's Fair of 1893. Larson’s breathtaking new history is a novelistic yet wholly factual account of the fair and the mass murderer who lurked within it...

*Blowout in the Gulf: The BP Oil Spill Disaster and the Future of Energy in America*
By: Freudenburg, William F. and Robert Gramling
GC1221.F74 2011

Review from: *Choice*  June 01, 2011
In this timely book, knowledgeable energy experts, Freudenburg and Gramling ... review the events that led to the collapse of BP’s gigantic Deepwater Horizon platform in the Gulf of Mexico, its enormous ecological impact, and its influence on future energy policies... The book also discusses the influence of oil companies on politicians to develop self-serving policies. The data presented suggest that cutting corners had much to do with the disaster's occurrence. Compounding the problem was the lack of know-how and technologies to deal with the spill and control all the resulting environmental damages.

*Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*
By: Hillenbrand, Laura et.al.
D805.J3 Z364 2010

Review from: *Booklist*  November 1, 2010
... Louie Zamperini, an Olympic runner during the 1930s, flew B-24s during WWII. Taken prisoner by the Japanese, he endured captivity harsh even by Japanese standards and was a physical and mental wreck at the end of the war. He was saved by the influence of Billy Graham, who inspired him to turn his life around, and afterward devoted himself to evangelical speeches and founding boys' camps. Still alive at 93, Zamperini now works with those Japanese individuals and groups who accept responsibility for Japanese mistreatment of POWs and wish to see Japan and the U.S. reconciled...
Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other
By: Turkle, Sherry
HM851.T86 2011

Review from: Reference & Research Book News February 1, 2011
In this final volume in a trilogy of works on computers and people, Turkle…presents an important exploration of the psychological effects of computers on decision making and relationship building in a culture increasingly filled with technology dependence and social networking. Based on fifteen years of research and numerous interviews with adults and children, the work explores the development of new types of relationships among families and peer groups that are moderated by technology, the quality and psychological health of these relationships and a growing reaction to, and rejection of, this new cultural norm.

Why Millions Survive Cancer: the Successes of Science
By: Pecorino, Lauren
RC270.8.P43 2011

Review from: Choice April 1, 2012
If a person mentions that he/she has cancer—the dreaded "C" word—people automatically assume it is a death sentence. Not so, says Pecorino, at least not in the majority of cases. This is the result of the many scientific advances that have provided a better understanding of the disease. Her book has three major themes. It provides a historical overview of these scientific accomplishments along with the key scientists involved; it covers the progress that has been made in managing the disease, including new drugs with fewer adverse effects and better surgical procedures; lastly, it addresses how people can reduce their risks of getting the disease through lifestyle changes. This is a work written for the general public to help them better understand cancer and its treatments.

Which Comes First Cardio or Weights? Fitness Myths, Training Truths, and Other Surprising Discoveries from the Science of Exercise
By: Hutchinson, Alex
RA781.H798 2011

Review from: PW Annex Reviews July 11, 2011
This wide-ranging book covers far more than its title promises. Beyond the cardio/weight debate, Hutchinson covers fitness gear, physiology, flexibility, aging, injury, weight management, and the mental aspects of exercise in this question-and-answer-style offering. Hutchinson…is certainly a subject matter expert and a thorough researcher, clearly explaining scientific concepts for the average reader. He provides up-to-date, research-based health and fitness news. He touches on trends like barefoot running and Wii workouts and includes fitness oddities like the risk of water intoxication...

Inside National Health Reform
By: McDonough, John E. et.al
RA393.M244 2011

Review from: Library Journal October 15, 2011
By offering a concise description of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), McDonough…provides an opportunity for readers interested in debating the merits of the law to do so with a solid understanding of its history and content…He describes the origins and legislative struggles that led to the laws that were enacted and then devotes a chapter to each of the ten titles within the ACA. A concluding chapter attempts to look at the future of the law—its challenging implementation, fiscal consequences, and legal issues.

The Band that Played On: the Extraordinary Story of the 8 Musicians Who Went down with the Titanic
By: Turner, Steve
G530.T6 T87 2011

Review from: Library Journal March 15, 2011
The story of the ship's band playing cheerful music to calm passengers as the Titanic sank seized the public's imagination from the earliest reports, and the musicians became instant legends, lauded for their bravery. They were hired through an agency and were technically second-class passengers, not employees of the shipping line, despite their shipboard duties. All eight men died, and survivors claimed that they heard music playing until the very end…He offers a picture of the lives of these particular musicians, along with much information on the work of professional musicians generally in the early 20th century. He even takes on the 99-year-old debate about the last song played…