**FEATURED TITLES**

**APRIL 2013**

**Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention**
By: Marable, Manning  
BP 223 .Z8 L57636 2011

Review from: Publisher’s Weekly June 27, 2011
One of the United States’ most renowned scholars of African-American history, Marable had been working for years on his mammoth revisionist biography of Malcolm X, fighting off illness before dying the week of the book’s publication. His book offers a notably divergent perspective on the black nationalist leader from his own autobiography, co-written by Alex Haley, downplaying his criminal experiences and emphasizing his pattern of intellectual transformation. G. Valmont Thomas coolly summons the appropriate scholarly tone for this compelling portrait of a leader never entirely settled within himself. His low, sleek voice, composed and assured, is entirely apt for this adeptly written, copiously researched biography.

**Seward: Lincoln’s Indispensable Man**
By: Stahr, Walter  
E 415.9 .S4 S73 2012

Review from: Booklist June 1, 2012
It is the fate of William Seward to remain in the shadow of Abraham Lincoln, the president he served so effectively as secretary of state. Stahr is determined to see that Seward gets his due, and this comprehensive and easily digestible biography is largely successful.... Stahr shows how Seward evolved into Lincoln’s most dedicated and skillful servant, particularly in his navigation of the minefield of relations with France and Britain. This is no hagiography. Stahr acknowledges Seward’s flaws, including a habit of serpentine political manipulation. A worthy tribute to one of the most important political figures of the nineteenth century.

**Let the People In: The Life and Times of Ann Richards**
By: Reid, Jan  
F 391.4 .R53 R45 2012

Review from: Library Journal August 1, 2012
It’s hard to believe that as recently as the early 1990s, the bright-red state of Texas had a pro-choice female Democrat as its governor.... Despite his closeness to his subject, Reid keeps personal anecdotes to a minimum and assembles a comprehensive narrative of Richards’s life, from her humble upbringing in Waco to her time in the governor’s office. This book, which maintains a brisk pace and is filled with characters found only deep in the heart of Texas politics, is an indispensable addition to any collection specializing in Texas or state politics and feminist political figures. Both scholarly and accessible, it will appeal to almost any reader interested in the lives of American politicians.

**A Most Magnificent Machine: American Adopts the Railroad, 1825-1862**
By: Miner, Craig  
HE 2751 .M56 2010

Review from: Choice June 1, 2011
The development of antebellum railroads is an oft-told tale. Miner (late, Wichita State Univ.) takes a completely fresh approach in two ways. First, he argues that not only did Americans adopt railroads, but they adapted their economy and society to this new technology. This is implicit in most accounts by economic historians, but by bringing it to the fore Miner forces readers to ask an important question: could the US have adapted the railway to the existing economy and society, rather than the other way around? Second, Miner addresses this question using newspaper accounts along with magazine stories and pamphlets.... The final chapter does an especially nice job of tying together the concerns 19th-century writers had about American society adopting railroads with those of 21st-century critics discussing the effects of social media.

**Bull By the Horns: Fighting to Save Main Street from Wall Street and Wall Street from Itself**
By: Bair, Sheila  
HG 2491 .B23 2012

Review from: Reference & Research Book News February 1, 2013
In her account of how the US government dealt with the financial mess at the core of the Great Recession, Bair, the chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC) from 2006-2011, dispels myths and gives her account of the key players' roles. Bair, who grew up on "main street" in rural Kansas, shares her belated qualms about the bank bailouts, and revelations regarding how the government and the big banks' regulator worked to protect them against greater regulation.
Finding the Answers to Legal Questions: A How-to-Do It Manual
By: Tucker, Virginia, Marc Lampson
KF 240 .T83 2011

Review from: Library Journal March 15, 2011
Part-time law librarian Tucker and lawyer and librarian Lampson... provide an overview of the primary sources of legal information followed by a section on conducting reference interviews, with emphasis on the important differences between being a navigator for a patron and offering legal advice. There is a good discussion of basic legal research techniques and several chapters that deal with answering specific legal questions in such areas as employment law, family law, estate planning, criminal law, and lawsuits. The format is well thought out-highlighted boxes in each of the sections recap the resources discussed, illustrate a key concept from the narrative, or point to developments in legal resources worth monitoring. Appendixes include a glossary, a summary of reliable online tools, and a state law resource compilation.

Teaching Students to Read Like Detectives: Comprehending, Analyzing, and Discussing Text
By: Fisher, Douglas, Nancy Frey, Diane Lapp
LB 1573.7 .F553 2012

Review from: Reference & Research Book News October 1, 2011
Teachers Fisher et al. (language and literacy education, literacy, and education, San Diego State U.) show other educators how to teach students to read closely, think critically, and engage deeply with ideas using the eyes of a detective. They explore the relationship between text, the learner, and learning, covering the principles of discussion and discourse that lead to deep learning. They discuss how to use discourse and rhetoric with narrative and informational texts, how to use the features and structures of these texts to foster thinking, and how new media influence how both narrative and informational texts are located, shared, and created.

How Music Works
By: Byrne, David
ML 3790 .B97 2012

Review from: Library Journal September 15, 2012
As this book's title suggests, musician and Talking Heads cofounder Byrne (Bicycle Diaries) brings the same ambition and wide-ranging focus to his writing that has always been present in his music and visual art. In chapters that function as distinct essays, he explores several hows of music: how technology has shaped its history, how artists can make money from it, and how our culture and surroundings affect our reactions to it... Byrne has a knack for presenting ideas and theories from music scholarship-notably, the still-emerging field of sound culture-in an accessible manner.

The U.S. Military: A Basic Introduction
By: Stiehm, Judith
UA 23 .S689 2012

Review from: Choice September 1, 2012
This compact book provides a primer for debates and discussions about the proper nature and use of the US military. Stiehm (Florida International Univ.) provides basic facts about the US military in two introductory chapters. She then surveys topics such as strategy, doctrine, and tactics; the military in action; weapons and capabilities; and the budgetary process. A final chapter describes resources for additional information. Since Stiehm has impressive military expertise, some readers may be irritated that she does not dive into controversial topics and give reasoned opinions. But the book is wholly consistent in purporting to inform the reader and encourage discussion and debate in order to reach informed decisions. In fact, it is quite remarkable that the author manages to summarize many controversial issues while maintaining studied neutrality. Since many complex issues are discussed in clear prose and a tight organizational format, the book should appeal to a spectrum of readers ranging from curious citizens to seasoned professionals. The index is useful in avoiding general topics about the US military while emphasizing the many specific issues and matters that are described and analyzed.

Kindergarten Magic: Theme-based Lessons for Building Literacy and Library Skills
By: MacMillan, Kathy, Christine Kirker
Z 675 .S3 M19 2012

Review from: Booklist January 1, 2012
MacMillan and Kirker's new book is a must-have resource for school librarians or teachers who work with kindergartners. The authors have combined their experience in children's librarianship, storytelling, and American Sign Language to design 36 thematic library units that support kindergarten benchmarks for early literacy. Each unit includes activities that focus on playful learning and incorporate singing, rhyming, drawing, and movement. An American Sign Language and Spanish activity is included for each theme. Units also contain citations for read-aloud books and books that kindergartners can enjoy on their own. Appendixes provide additional professional resources and instructions for flannel boards, stick puppets, and other teaching props.