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## American Prisons and Jails: An Encyclopedia of Controversies and Trends

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## REFERENCE

related to extraterrestrials. In this revised and updated third edition of a work originally published in the 1990s, Clark (*Unnatural Phenomena*) and ufology researchers, investigators, and folklore experts cover a variety of topics, from abductions and sightings to conspiracy theories and the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. There are more than 100 new entries and updates that provide context to the glut of declassified UFO-related documents released by the U.S. government since the last edition. The contents are treated objectively, presented with facts “as they are known,” including instances in which good reason exists to doubt the sincerity of informants. An expanded bibliography lists every source, including more than 4,000 books, articles, letters, and government documents. **VERDICT** Recommended for general readers and researchers interested in UFO phenomenon.—Gary Medina, *El Camino Coll.*, Torrance, CA

★Dirr, Michael A. & Keith S. Warren.  
**The Tree Book: Superior Selections for Landscapes, Streetscapes, and Gardens.**  
Timber. Apr. 2019. 900p. photos. index.  
ISBN 9781604697148. \$79.95; ebk. ISBN 9781604699180. REF  
Two giants of horticulture collaborate to

produce a book of considerable heft—a “bible” for tree nerds. Both authors are plantsmen, but Dirr comes from academia (emeritus, horticulture, Univ. of Georgia; *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*), while Warren is a retired tree breeder and nurseryman. Urging readers to “choose wisely, plant carefully, and plant often,” Dirr and Warren present more than 2,400 species and cultivars suitable for the temperate northern hemisphere (“tree” is defined in terms of mature height—15 feet as the rough lower limit). Each profile includes common and botanical names, details on foliage, flowers, seeds, fruits, cones, native range, availability, adaptability, and popular uses in landscapes. Recommendations and disapprovals are plainly stated, as in the good (any oak), the bad (Callery pear), and the ugly (Siberian elm). Most of the nearly 3,000 color photographs were taken by the authors and strongly support their observations on arboreal form and texture. The writing entertains with its lively stylistic mix of technical, impressionistic, and, occasionally, irreverent approaches to tree selection. **VERDICT** Readers familiar with *Dirr’s Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs* will miss its generous back-of-book selection aids, and some will find the current

volume’s index erratic, especially concerning common names. But these are quibbles: Dirr and Warren have given those who plant, care, and love trees an essential reference.—Robert Eagan, *Windsor P.L.*, Ont.

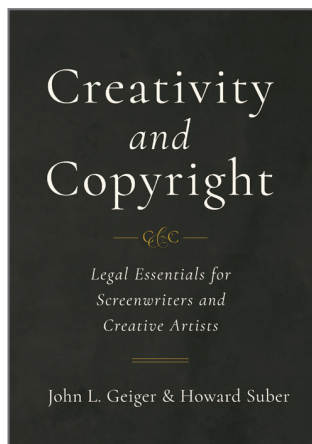
## SOCIAL SCIENCES

**American Prisons and Jails: An Encyclopedia of Controversies and Trends.**

ABC-CLIO. 2018. 793p. ed. by Vidisha Barua Worley & Robert M. Worley. photos. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781610695008. \$198. REF

According to the Worleys (criminal justice, Lamar Univ.), Americans comprise five percent of the world’s population but almost one-quarter of its prison inmates. In addition, the editors estimate that \$80 billion is spent annually on jails in this country. As the title indicates, this work’s focus is on U.S. correctional systems and practices, although there is a scattering of information on foreign prisons. In an excellent introduction, the editors provide a brief sketch of the historical development of U.S. prisons, succinctly detailing the reasons for the country’s rise in incarceration rates, from 96 prisoners per 100,000 citizens in the early 1970s to the current 698 prisoners per 100,000. Besides expected entries on famous inmates and

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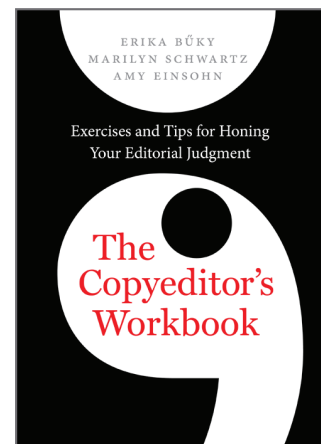
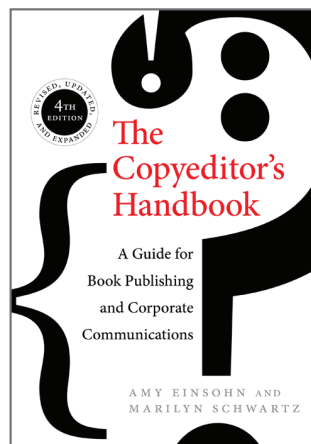
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prisons, there are articles on contemporary issues central to prison reform, including compassionate release, mandatory sentencing guidelines, and inmate education. Photos and numerous tidbits enhance the content. Resources for further reading and an extensive bibliography are a boon to researchers. Although none of the entries are longer than a few pages, the information is accurate and substantial. Especially important, the editors and contributors remain balanced while dispelling assumptions and perceptions about the American criminal justice system. **VERDICT** There is a great need for trustworthy material such as this given the human and financial resources devoted to penitentiaries and the thousands of lives they affect on a daily basis. A strong starting point for researchers and readers.—**Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA**

★ **Disability in American Life: An Encyclopedia of Concepts, Policies, and Controversies.** 2 vols. ABC-CLIO. 2018. 921p. ed. by Tamar Heller & others. illus. index. ISBN 9781440834226. \$198; ebk. ISBN 9781440834233. soc sci

Beginning with a powerful introduction by Carol Gill (emeritus, disability &

human development, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago) on disability as a civil rights issue and a foreword on the history of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), this two-volume set explores milestones and individuals within disability history. Gill collaborates with Heller, Sarah Parker Harris, and Robert Gould—fellow professors within the department of disability and human development—to produce a comprehensive reference. This up-to-date work covers efforts to weaken the ADA in 2018 and contains entries by scholarly contributors on everything from ableism, advocacy, and autonomy to citizenship, language, and stigma. Standout entries on ethics and voting rights reinforce the importance of the continued fight for equal access. The collection is intersectional, showing how race, gender, sexuality, and class directly impact care. While the editors claim the work is not exhaustive, they still offer a comprehensive time line, including a chronology of laws starting with the Smith-Sears Act of 1918, and a well-rounded list of Supreme Court cases, such as *Olmstead v. L.C.* (1999). **VERDICT** Filling a need for historical and cultural information on an understudied subject, this title highlights the economic and political power of people with disabili-

ties and should be an essential resource.—**Stephanie Sendaula, Library Journal**

**TRAVEL & GEOGRAPHY**

**National Geographic Almanac 2019.**

National Geographic. 2018. 400p. illus. photos. maps. index. ISBN 9781426219818. pap. \$19.99. REF

Dubbed National Geographic’s “first-ever” almanac for adults, this title doesn’t disappoint. With more than 400 pages and its trademark exceptional photography, the volume rings in 2019 by presenting and answering readers’ questions about everything from science and nature to history and geography. The book opens with trending topics including weather extremes, plastic, space travel, gene editing, and developments in urban environments. Topical themes and eye-popping pictures will satisfy trivia buffs, curious questioners, and science nerds alike. Need to know more about homo sapiens? Curious about natural wonders such as manatees and hummingbirds? Want to identify the highest point on Earth? Deepest lake? Wonders in your backyard? Browseable infographics and chapter-leading “quiz master” questions will satisfy. **VERDICT** A hefty yet thoroughly absorbing reference for most public libraries.—**Sharon Verbeten, Brown Cty. Lib., Green Bay, WI**

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■ *By Gricel Dominguez*

**CONTENT** This comprehensive resource by World Trade Press offers insight on world cultures, customs, history, and language. The collection currently covers 175 countries (from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe) and will interest scholars of international and cross-cultural studies, international business, social science, women’s studies, and language studies, as well as students engaging in study abroad. Global Road Warrior also gathers information that is often hard to find, such as local and business customs and details on travel within a nation.

World Trade Press is a publisher serving “researchers, educators, travelers, logistics, and international trade professionals.” Its digital products rely on a “Global Knowledgebase” of reference materials, complemented by a print collection of maps, books,



and atlases. The company was started in 1993 by author and economist Edward G. Hinkelman based on the idea that “we can strengthen mutual understanding across cultures by lowering the information barriers that prevent individuals and organizations from succeeding in the international arena.”

The content in the collection is produced by an international team of writers as well as experts in the fields of culture, travel, language, trade, business, logistics, security, and communications. Eighty-five percent of the material is proprietary to World Trade Press, resulting from a collaboration between in-house staff and an international team of writers. The remaining content is sourced from the public domain or reproduced with permission from reliable organizations. Source data is provided where applicable.

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