

episodes, and ratings history. There's also an overview of each show along with famous quotes or occurrences and major awards. This book also includes appendices that include lists referring to popular male and female characters, the best spin off sitcoms, as well as a few other lists. Although each entry includes at least one photo, there are no color photos, which is a slight disappointment.

Overall, *The Greatest Sitcoms of All Time* is a fun read and would be helpful for students doing general projects on the history of television. It is for this reason that I would suggest this item for both the academic library's and the public library's reference collection. The entries are just long enough for you to decide whether or not you would like to know more about a sitcom, and most entries include a section for suggested readings for more information. This is an item that I could see being used for a class assignment or for pleasure reading as well.—*Jasmine L. Jefferson, First Year Experience Librarian, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio*

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***The New Faces of American Poverty: A Reference Guide to the Great Recession.*** Ed. by Lindsey K. Hanson and Timothy J. Essenburg. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 2 vols. acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-1819). E-book available (978-1-61069-182-6), call for pricing.

John W. Gardner, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare under President Lyndon Johnson, is said to have observed, "History never looks like history when you are living through it."<sup>1</sup> Certainly when the catastrophic economic downturn from 2007 to 2009 began, few observers could predict its lasting significance. *The New Faces of American Poverty* is one of the first books to examine the impact of the Great Recession on poverty in America from historical, cultural, social, governmental, and demographic perspectives.

This two-volume reference set is comprised of essays from more than twenty contributing writers addressing topics such as federal and state responses to the crisis; the demographics of poverty by age, gender, education, geographic area, and ethnic group; and underlying causes of poverty. Essays are organized in thematic sections, each section introduced by a guiding question. For example, section 4, "How Did the Great Recession Affect Low-Income Individuals and Families?" includes chapters on food insecurity and assistance, hiring practices, homelessness, and housing assistance programs. section 6, "How Long Will the Effects of the Great Recession Last?" examines topics such as double dip recession risk and structural economic changes. Each section begins with a brief overview summarizing the key points of the topic. Further, as the reader would expect in a comprehensive reference work, both the section introductions and the essays themselves feature useful lists of materials for further reading.

Of particular use to researchers are the extensive primary document appendices in volume 2. The first appendix provides a background understanding of the Great Recession itself viewed through the lens of presidential speeches, government agency reports, and key legislation such as the

Economic Stimulus Act, the Emergency Stabilization Act, and the Troubled Asset Relief Program. The second appendix focuses on the Great Recession's impact on poverty and includes a thorough array of relevant, well-documented statistics. Key statistical data charts and graphs are also scattered throughout the essays, providing an easy-to-use entry point for students.

As the events of the Great Recession continue to resonate worldwide, more articles and reference books will doubtless become available. *The New Faces of American Poverty* provides an excellent grounding for an overview of the topic and should be a heavily-used resource on high school, college, and university library shelves for years to come.—*Jennifer A. Bartlett, Head of Reference Services, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky*

## Reference

1. John W. Gardner, *No Easy Victories* (New York: Harper and Row, 1968), 169.

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***Television Introductions: Narrated TV Program Openings Since 1949.*** By Vincent Terrace. Lanham, CD: Scarecrow, 2014. 391 pages. alkaline \$85 (ISBN: 978-0-8108-9249-1). E-book available (978-0-8108-9250-7), \$84.99.

Of all the reference resources that provide readers with information on television programs, *Television Introductions: Narrated TV Program Openings Since 1949* manages to stand out as a somewhat unique title. The book deals specifically with shows that opened with spoken introductions. As author Vincent Terrace states in the introduction, this "is not only the first (and only) book to detail the spoken openings of U.S. television series, but it is also the first to present the most extensive listing of theme song credits for American TV series from 1949 to 2013" (viii).

This single volume work is divided into several chapters, each of which covers a different genre or format: comedies, drama and adventure, westerns, science fiction, children's programs, soap operas, talk and variety shows, game shows, and court programs. News shows and reality programs are not covered. The entries within each chapter are arranged alphabetically and contain the name of the show, the network on which the show was broadcast, dates during which the show was originally broadcast, a brief overview of the premise for the show, the cast, theme title and credits, and a transcript of the narrated opening.

As would be expected from a volume such as this, readers will find entries on well-known classic shows such as *The Andy Griffith Show*, *Father Knows Best*, and the *Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*. Readers will, however, also find entries on much more obscure, older programs such as the *Adventures of Hiram Holliday* and *Big Foot and Wildboy* as well as more recent programs such as *Everybody Loves Raymond* and *Arrested Development*. Appendix A contains theme song credits for shows not covered elsewhere in the book (due to the show's lack of a spoken opening). Appendix B contains an