



The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Rock History [6 volumes]

By Lisa M. Scrivani-Tidd, John Borgmeyer, Rhonda Markowitz, Chris Smith, Richard Skanse, MaryAnn Janosik, Rob Patterson, Bob Gulla

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Neil Young once said that rock and roll will never die, and indeed, rock music has played an enormous role in American culture ever since its beginnings in the 1950s. From early rock n' roll to the British Invasion, from the psychedelic era to the growth of corporate rock and the underground scene, from the video generation to the grunge and post-grunge years, rock music has been an undeniable force in both reflecting and shaping cultural trends in the United States. Each of the six volumes in this set provides both narrative chapters and helpful recommended resources for information about important performers, trends, and genres within these exciting periods in rock music history.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—This chronological overview of rock music history is divided into six volumes: *The Early Years, 1951-1959*; *Folk, Pop, Mods, and Rockers, 1960-1966*; *The Rise of Album Rock, 1967-1973*; *From Arenas to the Underground, 1974-1980*; *The Video Generation, 1981-1990*; and *The Grunge and Post-Grunge Years, 1991-2005*. Each book's preface, introduction, and time line explain the scope of the text and set the stage for the thematic chapters that follow. The encyclopedic A-Z of Rock at the end of each volume contains brief biographical entries, information on record companies, and definitions of musical styles. Appendixes of the top-selling and most significant records of the period are included. Each title concludes with an extensive Reference Guide that lists related books, articles, Web sites, organizations, museums, events, films, and recordings, followed by a detailed index. Scattered throughout the texts are black-and-white portraits and shaded text boxes with information on influential musicians, musical styles, and more. In addition to being excellent reference tools, these volumes are so readable that libraries will want to consider circulating them. An outstanding set.—*Ginny Gustin, Sonoma County Library System, Santa Rosa, CA*
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From [Booklist](#)

It's been 50 years since the blues had a baby and they named it rock 'n' roll,^B and the rock genre has matured enough to merit its own thorough examination, as exemplified by the many colleges offering courses in rock 'n' roll history as well as by the "hybridization" of rock into countless forms, such as alternative rock, classic rock, glitter rock, punk rock, folk rock, roots rock, etc. As explained in the set foreword, content in these six volumes is organized into narrative chapters that tell the different stories of rock's development, beginning with early influences (ragtime, blues, gospel, country) through its historical forms (southern rock, new wave, progressive rock, heavy metal) and all the way up to its more current iterations (grunge, Britpop, industrial, garage rock).

Each volume has its own author and represents a different historical snapshot in rock's photo album: we see the very first steps made by rock in volume 1, "The Early Years, 1951-1959"; explosive growth caused by the British invasion in volume 2, "Folk, Pop, Mods, and Rockers, 1960-1966"; adolescent experimentation with psychedelic rock in volume 3, "The Rise of Album Rock, 1967-1973"; signs of maturity in the form of corporate commodification in volume 4, "From Arenas to the Underground, 1974-1980"; a whole new phase defined by MTV in volume 5, "The Video Generation, 1981-1990"; and, finally, the recent innovations of alternative and indie rock in volume 6, "The Grunge and Post-Grunge Years, 1991-2005."

A preface for each volume lets the reader know what to anticipate in terms of coverage, and the breadth of topics in the set includes important musicians, personalities, songwriters, places, films, producers, trends, terms, genres, and concerts as well as some technical aspects of music (e.g., a section explaining the 12-bar blues structure).

Each volume contains a number of resources, such as a time line and a dictionary called the "A-to-Z of Rock," both of which cover the historical era encompassed within a specific volume. Text is supported by a number of black-and-white photos (mostly publicity shots of artists); discographies of seminal recordings; interesting sidebars; resource guides, which include books, articles, Web sites, and special collections; and a comprehensive index.

Topic selection is sometimes an issue. As rock's time line progresses, it becomes more a matter of author subjectivity as to which artists deserve inclusion. Fans of certain artists--especially current artists--may find their darlings given short shrift or overlooked entirely and wonder what provoked the exclusion. Never mind. By giving rock music the spotlight, the authors ultimately attain their goal of presenting an insider's view of the rock genre and its many forms. The set is a unique reference source and downright addictive in terms of browsing and should appeal to researchers, music historians, students, and, finally, the kids inside many of us who just like everything about rock music. Reading it reminds us that those kids are *still* alright. *Jerry Eberle*
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Review

"Two academics who worked for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and six music journalists produced this 1,700-page set. Each volume follows a common presentation: time line; chapters enhanced with black-and-white photographs and sidebars; an A-Z of Rock with brief descriptions of major artists, recordings, and events; appendixes listing significant recordings; reference guide; and index....[e]ach Greenwood volume serves as a useful introduction to its respective era. Recommended. Lower-/upper-division undergraduates; general readers." - **Choice**

"[C]overs the gamut of rock'n'roll music from its inception in the early 1950s to the postgrunge of today." - **Library Journal**

"[V]alue for money (on a scale of one to five, five being good, a five). Very much a book for the school, college, and university library where rock music is both studied and simply enjoyed, and good for public library reference... Durable, easy-to-handle and carry about, a must for any specialist researcher, for a lecturer preparing courses in the field, and for anyone priding themselves on knowledge of rock history." - **Reference Reviews**

"This six-volume set is an all-inclusive history of rock from its early days in the 1950's up through the decades to the grunge and post-grunge years, 1991-2005. It brings an understanding of rock music, and treats it as not just entertainment but as part of culture--how rock has shaped and been shaped by culture. The chapters in this set provide B&W photos, fact boxes, and narratives about musicians, writers, producers, trends, concerts, and much more....This set would be valuable for those doing research and appealing to those who are interested in reading about the history of rock. Recommended." - **Library Media Connection**

"[E]ngagingly written, and the overall design of each volume is well thought out and easy to use. The photographs of the various performers and performing groups add a great touch. The timeline that opens each volume is very helpful in placing a specific group or movement in its wider historical context. The glossary at the end of each volume provides brief descriptions of personalities, record labels, and important musical titles. The reference guide or bibliography in each volume is extensive. In addition, each volume's index is thorough and includes cross references....Because of its thoroughness and scholarly approach, *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Rock History* is an indispensable set that should be placed in the collections of all public libraries and in academic libraries serving music programs." - **Reference & User Services Quarterly**

"Each book's preface, introduction, and time line explain the scope of the text and set the stage for the thematic chapters that follow. The encyclopedic A-Z of Rock at the end of each volume contains brief biographical entries, information on record companies, and definitions of musical styles. Appendixes of the top-selling and most significant records of the period are included. Each title concludes with an extensive Reference Guide that lists related books, articles, Web sites, organizations, museums, events, films, and recordings, followed by a detailed index. Scattered throughout the texts are black-and-white portraits and

shaded text boxes with information on influential musicians, musical styles, and more. In addition to being excellent reference tools, these volumes are so readable that libraries will want to consider circulating them. An outstanding set." - **School Library Journal**

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Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin

"This new survey of music history traces the development of rock music from its roots in blues, gospel, jazz, country and western swing through the video age and the post-grunge scene. The approach is chronological with separately authored volumes, each spanning seven to 15 years....Each period survey begins with a timeline of the decade and concludes with a guide to additional resources including books, films and Web sites. Appendices also include lists of best-selling records and an author-selected list of influential recordings. Topics cover not just the development of musical styles and genres, but also the music business; the influence of television, video and film; political activism and the humanitarian efforts of rock musicians....[t]he substantial narratives provide an excellent overview of rock history and will serve a wide range of audiences." - **Lawrence Looks at Books**

"*The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Rock History* explores the ways rock music both reflected and shaped culture since its beginnings in the 1950s. Each of the six volumes provides narrative chapters on the important performers, trends, and genres for each vibrant period in rock music. Also provided in each volume is a timeline; a discography of seminal and bestselling recordings; a dictionary of performers, recordings, events and genres; a resource guide; and an index to serve an additional research resources." - **Library Media Connection**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angel Huitt:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive now, people have to do something to make these survive, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a publication your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you who want to start reading a new book, we give you this particular *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Rock History* [6 volumes] book as beginner and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Katie Johnson:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be change about what going on or details even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era that is certainly always change and progress. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you is you don't know what one you should start with. This *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Rock History* [6 volumes] is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because book

serves what you want and want in this era.

Phillip Herzog:

Precisely why? Because this The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Rock History [6 volumes] is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap it but latter it will zap you with the secret it inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such remarkable way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book include such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Lisa Alaniz:

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