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Book Review-Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Literature

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Off the SHELF

Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Literature edited by Tarshia Stanley. Greenwood Press, 2009. ISBN 978-0-313-34389-6 Price: \$69.95

One way to engage twenty-first century learners in the research process is to provide access to appropriate tools that effectively meet their information needs. If such a learner is interested in exploring a wide range of topics on African American literature, then the *Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Literature* is a good place to begin the research process. The *Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Literature*, edited by Tarshia Stanley, PhD, an associate professor of English at Spelman College in Atlanta, is a valuable resource for contemporary scholars, researchers, and librarians. In particular, the encyclopedia benefits those with a general interest in learning more about African American studies. The volume contains annotations of African American popular culture works. Included are a variety of subject categories such as memoirs, films, music, magazines, self-publishers, and cultural critics, just to name a few. *Hip Hop Literature* contains

entries of both fiction and nonfiction titles related to hip hop as well as a selected bibliography. The varied content includes works of notable scholars such as Michael Eric Dyson and celebrity radio and television personalities such as Wendy Williams—thereby offering a range of knowledge for the novice or scholar. Readers may discover hip hop pioneers like Chuck D. and Russell Simmons, challenge their thinking by exploring the works of activists Kevin Powell and Sister Souljah, and lighten up with fanzines and films. Readers will also appreciate the further reading section at the end of each entry that allows them to learn more about their subject. The book is clear, concise, and well-organized. The *Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Literature* is recommended for library users interested in pop culture, African American studies, or urban literature, and for individuals with an interest in popular culture.

Angiah Davis is a Reference Librarian at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library.