[Review of] Blues, Funk, Rhythm and Blues, Soul, Hip Hop and Rap: A Research and Information Guide

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Meadows (emer., ethnomusicology, San Diego State Univ.), author of several reference works, including Jazz Scholarship and Pedagogy (2006), divides this guide into three sections: "Blues Resources," "Funk, Rhythm and Blues, and Soul Resources," and "Hip Hop/Rap Resources." He offers as many as 17 subcategories for each, thereby presenting over 1,300 noncritical annotated entries on a wide range of scholarly, popular, biographical, and discographical works, with appropriate specialized subcategories (e.g., sampling, DJing). Entries, primarily English language, include books, theses, dissertations, and some articles (especially in the "Hip Hop/Rap" section), all published from the 1920s to 2008, most in North America. Appendixes add periodical and online resources. An introductory essay on research trends provides an excellent overview and core bibliography of 125 works. Missing essentials are minimal, but notable ones include David Mills's George Clinton and P-Funk (1998), edited by Dave Marsh. Clinton is a prominent subject in some annotations, but the indexing of artists appearing in annotations is inconsistent. Robert Ford's A Blues Bibliography (2nd ed., CH, Jan'08, 45-2349) contains over 35,000 unannotated entries, primarily biographical works about performers. Meadows's coverage of other blues resources and other non-jazz popular African American musical styles provides a beneficial starting point for research. Useful for libraries that can afford it.

Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty/researchers.

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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