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[Review of] The Elvis Encyclopedia

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Repository Citation

Aken, Robert A., "[Review of] The Elvis Encyclopedia" (2009). *Library Faculty and Staff Publications*. 103.
https://uknowledge.uky.edu/libraries_facpub/103

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Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5860/CHOICE.46-3001>

Notes/Citation Information

Published in *CHOICE*, v. 46, no. 6, 46-3001.

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doi: 10.5860/CHOICE.46-3001

CHOICE February 2009 vol. 46 no. 06

46-3001

ML420

MARC

Victor, Adam. **The Elvis encyclopedia**. Overlook Duckworth, 2008. 598p ISBN 9781585675982, \$65.00

Victor (independent scholar; *The Marilyn Encyclopedia*, 1999) has compiled an in-depth work on the Elvis Presley phenomenon via over 2,200 entries covering Elvis's works and performances, family, influences, associates, and travels, along with summaries of biographical highlights (e.g., spirituality, anger, humor, drugs, death). The alphabetically arranged entries range from a sentence to over four pages and are interspersed with over 400 photographs (many full-page), album covers, and poster reproductions (half of which are in color). Entries often include a variety of quotation outtakes concerning a specific topic. This coffee-table-style book brings together useful information on the ultimate 20th-century pop icon, but fails to provide many cross-references (none within the body of the entries) or much documentation, although a few entries include short bibliographies; it lacks an analytical index. Individual song, album, and film entries provide pertinent histories and contexts. Lee Cotten's *All Shook Up* (CH, Nov'85) and David Stanley and Frank Coffey's *The Elvis Encyclopedia* (1994) both follow a chronological plan made accessible by in-depth indexing. Nonetheless, for in-depth popular music and culture collections, Victor's work provides useful quick references, particularly regarding songs and people. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Lower- and upper-level undergraduates; general readers.

--R. A. Aken, *University of Kentucky*

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