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## Deaf Culture

### Selected Annotated Bibliography of Resources at the Palomar College Library

“People who are part of Deaf culture typically use a sign language (such as American Sign Language) as their primary language and often emphatically see themselves as not disabled, but rather as members of a cultural or language minority.”

Paddy Ladd

Understanding Deaf Culture: In Search of Deafhood

## Works Cited

American Annals of the Deaf. Executive Committee of the Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf. 23 Sept. 2008 <<http://prozy.palomar.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rzh&jid=AOD&site=ehost-live>>.

American Annals of the Deaf, published by Gallaudet University, is a quarterly publication that is available in print at the Palomar College Library and supplied electronically via the CINAHL Plus with Full Text database. This journal publishes articles primarily on the topic of education of deaf students. Secondly, this journal publishes articles on communication methods and strategies, language development in deaf children, mainstreaming and residential schools, family relationships, teacher training and teaching skills. This is an advanced journal that may have limited usefulness for community college students but would be useful for students and staff who are familiar with general issues of the Deaf community and are looking for more in-depth treatment of topics that relate to the Deaf.

Bertling, Tom. A Child Sacrificed: To the Deaf Culture. Wilsonville, Or: Kodiak Media Group, 1994.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: HV2534 .B47 A3 1994>

This author's stated objective with this book is "to promote awareness in the mainstream hearing society of the culturally deaf world, as well as those living in it, of its unspoken shortcomings. Most notably, and the most disappointing, is the failure of the culture to produce

citizens who are, by and large, contributors to society.” This book is largely a personal account written by a deaf man and a product of deaf residential schools. Mostly, this book is a departure from the majority of books on Deaf culture that treat the subject of the creation of the Deaf community in a positive light. This book takes the alternative point of view that creation of this culture does deaf people a disservice by taking them out of the mainstream of hearing society. This is a circulating book in the Palomar College Library.

Biesold, Horst. Crying Hands: Eugenics and Deaf People in Nazi Germany. Trans. William Sayers. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet UP, 1999.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: HV2748 .B5413 1999>

Crying Hands: Eugenics and Deaf People in Nazi Germany is a circulating book in the Palomar College Library. This book is a translation of *Klagende Holde*, first published in German. This book details the devastation of the deaf community during the Nazi era by eugenics, educators and National Socialism. Primary source material for this resource involved interviews of over 1200 persons affected by the Nazi Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases in a 1986 study by the author. As a culture is composed partially of persons with a shared history, this resource is essential to an academic library in illustrating the persecution that the Deaf community has been subject to during periods of the recent past.

Bragg, Lois. Deaf World: A Historical Reader and Primary Sourcebook. New York: New York UP, 2001.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: HV2545 .D43 2001>

Deaf World is a collection of essays on topics related to Deaf Culture. This is a circulating item in the Palomar College Library collection. Essays focus on life in the hearing world, American Sign Language and its literature, deaf education, the deaf ethic and the Deaf community. This is a collection of political, historical and autobiographical works on issues related to the Deaf.

Channing, Stockard, narr. Through Deaf Eyes. Prod. Lawrence Hott and Diane Garey. 2007.

DVD. PBS Home Video.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: HV2530 .T47 2007>

This video, produced in 2007, examines Deaf history and presents many differing facets involved in life as a Deaf person. Subjects covered include schools for deaf students, American Sign Language, TTY and the fight for a deaf president at Gallaudet University. Multiple artistic works by Deaf artists are presented. This film covers the story of a complex culture with a very understood past and present. As this is such a recent production that covers the varying facets with Deaf culture with a 21<sup>st</sup> century vision, it is a valuable resource for any library.

“Deaf Culture.” Palomar College Library. 4 Apr. 2006. 16 Sept. 2008

<<http://www.palomar.edu/library/subjects/deaf.htm>>.

“Deaf Culture” is one of a collection of web-based subject guides in the Palomar College Library website. While most of the subject guides are well developed with many pointers to information resources, the subject guide for Deaf culture has only four links with no links to any cultural information. The links supplied are for American Sign Language resources. While American Sign Language resources are important to the Deaf Community, this resource is lacking in pointers to resources on cultural issues related to Deaf people.

#### Deaf Life.

Deaf Life is a monthly magazine that the Palomar College Library provides as a print periodical. Deaf Life provides information on current events in the Deaf Community. Recent articles have covered the topics of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a biography of Olive Rawlings Swindells and the controversy over the political stance of Alexander Graham Bell. Each issue features an almanac of important dates in Deaf Culture. This periodical is unique in its presentation of current issues in Deaf Culture and is useful for any library that has either deaf patrons or patrons interested in issues in the Deaf Community.

Eriksson, Per. The History of Deaf People: A Source Book. Trans. James Schmale. Örebro, Sweden: Daufu, 1998.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: HV2370 .E75 1998>

This book begins with a discussion of the etymology of the word for deaf in Swedish *döv*, and its related words in German *taub*, Icelandic *daufu*, Danish *døv* and English *deaf*. The History of Deaf People is a collection of entries of historical events and societies and the role and situation of deaf people in them. For example, there are entries for the Koran and the Venerable Bede. In addition, there is a collection of historical Deaf people. The book ends with a list of references. This book has value in its historical and etymological information and also in its viewpoint based outside of American Sign Language, but instead from Swedish Sign Language.

Graybill, Patrick, Director, and Dennis Cokely, Writer. An Introduction to the Deaf Community. 1993. Videocassette. Sign Media, Inc. & Madonna University.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: HV2474 .I67 1993>

An Introduction to the Deaf Community is a thirty minute video that covers the Deaf Community. It explains the meaning of culture as it applies to Deaf Culture by explaining that Deaf Culture is a result of a linguistic uniqueness created by American Sign Language. This video highlights various Deaf community groups from sports groups and groups of artists. A section of the video instructs a hearing person how to successfully communicate with a deaf person and how to avoid cultural faux pas. Although this video is fifteen years old and the style

of dress and appearance of technology seem dated, the information presented are a good introduction to the myriad of issues surrounding the Deaf Community.

Hairston, Ernest, and Linwood Smith. Black and Deaf in America: Are We That Different. Silver Spring, Md: T.J., 1983.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: HV2545 .H35 1983>

Black and Deaf in America: Are We That Different is a circulating book in the Palomar College Library. Published in 1983, this book is twenty-five years old and the information and data contained in it may be dated. According to this book, approximately two million African-Americans have a hearing impairment serious enough to warrant medical or education services and approximately 22,000 are profoundly deaf. As there are a relatively small amount of African-American deaf persons, the author notes that many of these individuals have never met another African-American deaf person who could have acted as role models or mentors to share pride and encouragement of their shared cultures. This book contains a collection of biographies of African-American deaf people. The author also discusses the role of the deaf child in the family. This resource details information about a subculture within the Deaf community but would, perhaps, be more valuable to an academic library if it were more current.

Joachim, Guido H. G., ed. International Bibliography of Sign Language. International studies on sign language and communication of the deaf 21. Hamburg, Ger.: Signum, 1993.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: REF HV2474 .J63 1993>

The International Bibliography of Sign Language is a bibliography of publications related to Sign Language of the Deaf published before 1993. This reference resource is a one volume print monograph available in the Palomar College Library reference collection. The bibliographical entries of this resource are arranged by general topic area. They are bibliographies, history, general resources, methods, lexicology, grammar, sign language acquisition, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, signed language, sign language teaching, sign language interpreting, education of the deaf and sign language and the deaf community. This is a very thorough resource of pointers to information about the deaf, deafness and topics related to signed language. As it was published in 1993, though, all resources listed are more than fifteen years old.

Ladd, Paddy. Understanding Deaf Culture: In Search of Deafhood. Clevedon, UK: Multilingual Matters, 2003.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: HV2380 .L26 2003>

This book is a circulating item in the collection of the Palomar College Library and is part of a series of materials focusing on second languages and unique linguistic topics. The following topics are presented in this resource: deaf communities, deafness in western civilization, definitions and theories of culture, residential schools for the deaf. In particular, the author develops a deep examination of the definition and history of the word and concept of culture.

This is an advanced resource for the scholar researching the concept of deaf culture. As such, it is a valuable resource for an academic library but may not be such an essential item for a small public library.

Moore, Matthew S., and Robert F. Panara. Great Deaf Americans: The Second Edition. 2nd ed.

Rochester, N.Y.: Deaf Life P, 1996.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: HV2534 .A3 M66 1996>

Great Deaf Americans: The Second Edition is a circulating book in the Palomar College Library.

This resource is a collective biography of Deaf Americans and is an update of the first edition of Great Deaf Americans published in 1983. As such, this book incorporates biographical entries that create a better representation of the cultural and ethnic diversity of the Deaf community. There are biographies of approximately ten to fifteen pages in length of foreign-born persons, soldiers, artists, athletes, gay and lesbian advocates and librarians of the Deaf community. This book is an invaluable resource for a community college library as many students in a community college are exploring possible career and life paths. This book illustrates the varied history of many individuals in the Deaf community.

Polich, Laura. The Emergence of the Deaf Community in Nicaragua: With Sign Language You Can Learn So Much. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet UP, 2005.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: HV2608 .P65 2005>

The Emergence of the Deaf Community in Nicaragua: With Sign Language You Can Learn So Much is a circulating book in the Palomar College Library. This book uses the Nicaraguan deaf community as an example of the events, elements and catalysts that are important in the formation of a Deaf community. The author examines Nicaraguan Sign Language (NSL) as a separate entity from the more familiar American Sign Language (ASL). This book is a good example of a Deaf community that is outside the United States and is useful in a library collection to illustrate the ethnic and cultural diversity that exists in the global Deaf community.

Sign Language Studies. Ed. David F. Armstrong. Gallaudet UP. 16 Sept. 2008

<<http://gupress.gallaudet.edu/SLS.html>>.

Sign Language Studies is a quarterly journal published by Gallaudet University Press. The Palomar College Library has a print subscription to this journal. The contents of this journal are not indexed by any of the electronic databases available at the Palomar College Library so access to the material published in this journal would be difficult for the potential researcher. This journal focuses on the topics of signed languages and signed language communities. Deaf culture, Deaf history, semiotics and linguistics are additional covered topics.

Sonnenstrahl, Deborah M. Deaf Artists in America: Colonial to Contemporary. San Diego: DawnSignPress, 2002.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: N6505 .S614 2002>

This book is a circulating item in the Palomar College Library. This anthology collects the contributions of sixty-three deaf artists have made to art. Illustrations, biographies, descriptions and a glossary are provided in this resource. In addition to the information about individual artists, a short history of deaf culture and a history of deaf people in the arts is provided. As artistic pursuits are part of every culture, this resource highlights art as an important part of Deaf culture.

Taylor, Irene. Buddhas in Disguise: Deaf People of Nepal. San Diego: DawnSignPress, 1997.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: HV2855.9 .T39 1997>

Buddhas in Disguise: Deaf People of Nepal is a circulating book in the Palomar College Library.

This book is a cultural study of the Deaf community in Nepal. This book informs the reader that according to the Kathmandu Association of the Deaf that the number of deaf people in Nepal stands at 3%, a number significantly higher than in developed countries. The country of Nepal is largely Buddhist and deafness is considered a curse, “an aggression of one’s own karma,” according to the author. The author’s examination of Deaf Culture in Nepal shows that it does not operate in a polarity as it does in most developed countries but rather deafness exists “within a montage of colorful myths and religious practices.” This book is worthwhile in

an academic library to show the differences in cultural practices of the treatment of the deaf community in a foreign culture.

Tennant, Richard A., and Marianne Gluszak Brown, eds. The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary. Washington, DC: Clerc, 1998.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: REF HV2475 .T46 1998>

The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary is a printed monograph located in the Palomar College Library reference collection. The entries in this resource are organized by the possible shape of the hand rather than the usual organization by English alphabetical word order. This resource facilitates deaf culture as “American Sign Language is the shared language that unites Deaf people in what is known as the Deaf community.” In addition, entries are split into sections for one-hand signs and two-hand signs. There is also a section on the vocabulary of American Sign Language. In order for a native English speaker to use this resource, the reader must look up the corresponding English word in the Index of English Glosses. For a native ASL speaker, this resource seems as if it would be invaluable for learning new signs.

Valli, Clayton, ed. The Gallaudet Dictionary of American Sign Language. Washington, DC:

Gallaudet UP, 2005.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: REF HV2475 .G35 2005>

The Gallaudet Dictionary of American Sign Language is a print monograph located in the Palomar College Library reference collection. Signs are arranged in alphabetical order in English by the word most likely to be associated with each sign. This contrasts to the American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary which organizes signs by sign shape. Clear drawings with arrows illustrate each sign and the hand motions required for each sign. According to the preface of this resource, “The Gallaudet Dictionary of American Sign Language is a learning tool for beginning signers, a reference tool for more advanced signers, and also an English vocabulary reference for Deaf people.” This resource seems to be aimed at native English speakers learning to sign rather than at native ASL speakers so may have limited utility for Deaf people depending on their individual background.

Van Cleve, John V, ed. Gallaudet Encyclopedia of Deaf People and Deafness. 3 vols. New York:

McGraw-Hill, 1987.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: REF HV2365 .G35 1987>

This multivolume reference source does not circulate in the Palomar College Library. In the preface of this encyclopedia, a claim is made that “no comparable reference source exists.” Subjects covered include entries from the sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. In addition, there are biographical entries. All entries are connected in some way to deafness or

hearing loss or related subjects. Entries also cover the range of human experience with coverage encompassing biographical entries for persons of diverse age, varied degree of hearing loss and heterogeneous cultural characteristics. This is a valuable resource for any library for it enables a researcher to research various topics and how they relate to the deaf community and deafness.

Wrigley, Owen. The Politics of Deafness. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet UP, 1997.

<Palomar College Library Call Number: HV2395 .W75 1997>

Wrigley's The Politics of Deafness is a "postmodern examination of the search for identity in deafness and its relationship to the prevalent hearing culture that has marginalized Deaf people" (from back cover). The author begins the book by the claim that Deafness is less about audiology than it is about epistemology. He discusses the history of the distinction between *deaf* and *Deaf* and its impact on self-identification among people without hearing and the culture that is created as a result. He continues by discussing "Deaf ethnic identity" from the perspectives of the hearing and deaf communities. This resource is meticulously footnoted and includes a thirteen page bibliography of resources. As a study of Deafness, this book should be essential material for an academic library as it is a scholarly investigation of Deafness and the society of the Deaf Community.