

January 2009 Vol. 46 No. 05

HUMANITIES
Communication

Michael McFadden Marketing Coordinator
Peter Lang Publishing Inc
29 Broadway

New York, NY 10006

The following review appeared in the January 2009 issue of CHOICE:

46-2497

PN1991

2007-43470 CIP

Radio cultures: the sound medium in American life, ed. by Michael C. Keith. P. Lang, 2008. 351p bibl index afp ISBN 9780820488653, \$83.36; ISBN 9780820486482 pbk, \$32.95

Without a good editor, a volume of collected essays invariably ends up like a potluck dinner where each person brings what he or she wants, and one has too much of one thing and little or nothing of something else. Individually the essays may be good, but the book as a whole is uneven and redundant. This examination of radio's place in US consciousness does not suffer this fate, because Keith (Boston College), one of the foremost scholars in radio studies, brings the book's many offerings together to create a sumptuous feast. This is an impressive work, in no small part because of the breadth of its subject matter. The 19 essays explore, among other things, underground radio, hate radio, Christian radio, public radio, Latino radio, Native American radio, the unlicensed radio movement, and the organized labor movement. Without exception, the essays are crisp, revealing, and engaging. Taken individually, they all are worth reading; considered together, they provide keen insight into radio and its conversation with America. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers. -- *C. J. Lamb, College of Charleston*

January 2009 Vol. 46 No. 05

HUMANITIES
Communication

Michael McFadden Marketing Coordinator
Peter Lang Publishing Inc
29 Broadway

New York, NY 10006

The following review appeared in the January 2009 issue of CHOICE:

46-2495

PN4745

2007-45059 CIP

Martin, Shannon E. **Freedom of information: the news the media use.** P. Lang, 2008. 266p bibl index (Mediating American history, 1) ISBN 9780820481814 pbk \$32.95

At the present time, many parts of government cloak activities in secrecy. Attempts by ordinary citizens, journalists, and even Congress to secure information from the federal government are actively resisted, often through reliance upon the catchall excuse of "national security." Local school boards make personnel decisions in executive session and then refuse to explain or justify their actions. These cases imply that secrecy is easier than trying to defend what may well be indefensible. The problem is not new, as Martin (journalism, Indiana Univ.) demonstrates by noting John Adams's refusal to provide information to Congress in 1789. Martin's historical review traces the development of laws providing for freedom of information in the face of administrations that find new and creative ways to undermine these laws. The author also identifies state statutes and offers cases that have interpreted these laws. Appendix A provides the present federal law, and appendix B gives the addresses for the Freedom of Information Act office for most federal agencies. Endnotes supply substantial annotation. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Researchers and faculty; professionals; general readers. -- *P. E. Kane, emeritus, SUNY College at Brockport*