The I read about Japanese pop culture, the less I understand it. Idoru, maid cafes, Lolitas, boy love, yikes. It's so female oriented and female objectifying Japanese culture can be very subtle so I'm sure I'm missing something here. Still, a handy resource to peruse if you're curious about Japan's pop culture, and even if you're already an aficionado you might discover something new. I bought this book while visiting Japan, hoping to find out about the rad newgen sub culture of otaku. Overall, this is a short encyclopedia, plus a collection of interviews. It is much of what Otaku Spaces fails to be, that is, an analysis of what the otaku culture is and means. However, the presentation structure and style remain that of an encyclopedia, that is, rather dry, and there is an issue of too many explicit images sprinkled everywhere, so I would still recommend reading instead the general A Geek in Japan.

I read this in a plane, so I have to mention that there are very explicit images sprinkled on every page. I guess these are good representations of the manga anime culture as seen by the author, but it makes for an unnecessarily cumbersome reading in a public space. Also, I've read plenty of manga, but not much of the eroge, hentai, lolicon type. Anyway, it would have been much easier for the average European reader to restructure the imagery as follows: leave a few loose explicit images, and combine the rest most in a section only for explicit images.

The Otaku Encyclopedia Offers Fascinating Insight Into The Subculture Of Cool Japan. We Otaku Nerd Geek Or Fanboy Originates From A Polite Second Person Pronoun Meaning Your Home In Japanese Since The S It Is Been Used To Refer To People Who Are Really Into Japanese Pop Culture, Such As Anime, Manga, And Videogames A Whole Generation, Previously Marginalized With Labels Such As Geek And Nerd, Are Now Calling Themselves Otaku With Pride. The Otaku Encyclopedia Offers Fascinating Insight Into The Subculture Of Cool Japan With Over Entries, Including Common Expressions, People, Places, And Moments Of Otaku History, This Is The Essential A To Z Of Facts Every Japanese Pop Culture Fan Needs To Know. Author Patrick W. Galbraith Has Spent Several Years Researching Deep Into The Otaku Heartland And His Intimate Knowledge Of The Subject Gives The Reader An Insider's Guide To Words Such As Moe, Doujinshi, Cosplay, And Maid Cafes. In Depth Interviews With Such Key Players As Takashi Murakami, Otaku Expert Okada Toshio, And J Pop Idol Shoko Nakagawa Are Interspersed With The Entries, Offering An Even Penetrating Look Into The Often Misunderstood World Of Otaku. Dozens Of Lively, Colorful Images From Portraits Of The Interview Subjects To Manga Illustrations, Film Stills, And Photos Of Places Mentioned In The Text Pop Up Throughout The Book, Making The Otaku Encyclopedia As Entertaining To Read As It Is Informative. As a newcomer to the world of anime manga fandom, I found it pretty good, but I could not compare to much of anything else. It's a pretty complete view of otaku culture in Japan and is based on hundreds of interviews done by Patrick as part of his research earning a Ph.D. from a Japanese university in international communications. Some of the information causes some controversy with US fans and that's because what is here is based on Japanese fans. Examples, under the influential manga category Maison Ikkoku is listed and in the US Ranma 1 2 and if you're asking Ranma 1 2 not listed is much important to the career of Rumiko Takahashi. Another manga listed as influential is La Girl Blue which is very ecchi and many US fans are very hung up about anime and manga being identified with SEM. Whatever, there are fans and fen who get hung up about academic types taking some serious looks at fannish...
obsessions and activities. Going on, The entries cover from Akanbe to Zettai Ryouki and Zokusei, and lots of stuff inbetween. Rumiko Takahashi has her own entry and the entry has a cover photo of Ranma in accompany it. Danny Choo has his own entry. In addition of general entries, some notables have their own two pages specials. Example, Nakagawa Shoko a Japanese idol who is well known for identifying as a gamer and otaku. Example, Ichikawa Koichi one of the founders of Comiket. Finally, Patrick is a moe fan and so that bias shows, but it’s not overwhelming. Strong four stars. As the title suggests, this is an encyclopedia there are many entries to the anime manga Japanese pop culture jargon, not forgetting history and the people who have been involved in it, a handful of interviews giving a personal touch to a few topics. The book is written with the otaku culture in mind, which is an elusive term at best, even within the covers of this book. As someone who has long been interested in anime and manga, but has had little time to devote to that interest, this was a thorough eye opener to a world I am yet to explore fully. The book was aesthetically pleasing and easy enough to explore, cross referencing entries so that you could jump back and forth for clarification or, as usually was the case, to find a related term. A handy little book to have if you have an interest in this area. I only partially read this book. It was good, but I had other books that I needed wanted to read that ended up taking priority. Basically, you can look up a term that you would like to know in manga or anime or other otaku pursuits and read an entry about it. Just getting through the B’s I learned quite a bit. There are also interviews with various artists and directors about the otaku culture. Otaku basically a type of geek or nerd. It’s someone who likes video games and the internet and manga and anime and collecting action figures. Someone you might think of as living at home with their parents and not dating because of a shyness with the opposite sex. There’s also been a connotation of being creepy associated with this term and I think Japan has been trying to dispel the negative aspects of otaku and focus on the fun, positive things. I’ll eventually check this out again from the library. Considering the amount of manga I’ve been reading I think I’ve read from Japanese authors than from other foreign authors and have been amazed at the differences and the similarities I haven’t been to Japan, though. Maybe someday. I saw this book while on holiday in Japan and found it so impressively informative that I had to pick up my own copy once I got home of course, because it was cheaper to due to the exchange rate. Luckily the author is someone living and working in Japan so they’ve had the experience from their journalism work to research efficiently for this book than a humble westerner would. He has done a smashing job of explaining some of the newer terms used by fans today that old school fans like me just haven’t got around to understanding because it is quite common for chinese whispers to skew term understanding in the western market. There are some things in Japan you just won’t be aware of until you get there, but thanks to this book, you can get a bit of good a taster of what to expect before you go, eg, those strange to me moe Maid Cafes. An essential guide to any anime or Manga fan. Unfortunately, some of the Otaku culture is very sexual, and I can’t offer it to my high school students. I had the Japanese teacher look at it, and she confirmed that she would not be able to use it with students, but may be able to use some sections as a resource in class. Excellent book. My first of this year and I hope, of many to come. I have considered myself an otaku wannabe for a while, but after reading this book, I realized that it was a huge joke. Otakus are seriously into it. It is not a mere hobby. I am of a manga wota Johnny wota. This encyclopedia is very complete, it covers from manga to anime video games to idoru. There are great pictures about idorus, places, dolls and figures, but also some of them are very sexual. It also includes interviews with some connoisseurs of different fields maid, anime, cosplay, etc, some crimes that occurred with an otaku as the perpetrator. It is like this opened my eyes. I have always found Japan a fascinating culture, but several times I was thinking this is so crazy the dolls the different kind of maids certain fetishes. WOW. I loved this book.
The Otaku Encyclopedia is exactly as advertised, an encyclopedia devoted to all things otaku. While the word otaku has not become mainstream vernacular, for people who are well versed in things originating in Japan or in global subculture, the word is familiar and, interestingly, becoming quite cool. It is interesting because the term, in Japanese, conveys quite the opposite of cool, even if the obsessive pursuits of seriously devoted fans of a complex and,
often, slightly deranged medium become popular, it is the slightly disapproving public perception of the pursuit that separates the otaku from a mere fan. For every fan of games, anime, manga, idols, dolls, and related hobbies, only the devoted otaku transcend from a passive consumer to active participant. Patrick Galbraith’s book is, no doubt, an encyclopedia. It provides an alphabetical dictionary to all things otaku. But unlike most other encyclopedias, it is one that is actually quite readable in its entirety, from A to Z. Not only for its short interviews with a handful of some of the people noted for their contributions to otaku history and culture, but the definitions themselves provide a great deal of information for those who are trying to understand contemporary Japan and, particularly, the Cool Japan movements that are being promoted by the Japanese government and many others. Even though the subject matter may seem juvenile, risqué, and somewhat frivolous to some, it is very informative and useful for any student of contemporary Japan. Even if you are not interested in otaku pursuits, some understanding of these phenomenon is critical to knowing modern Japan and planning the way forward.
Everblue
Gathering Blue
Blue Moon
Blue Jasmine
Where the Red Fern Grows
The Virgin Blue
Blue Dahlia
The Golden Lily
Forever in Blue: The Fourth Summer of the Sisterhood
Blue Bloods
Something Blue
Five Quarters of the Orange
13 Little Blue Envelopes
Half of a Yellow Sun
The Picture of Dorian Gray
Ruby Red
The Red Pyramid
Green Mansions
Sisters Red