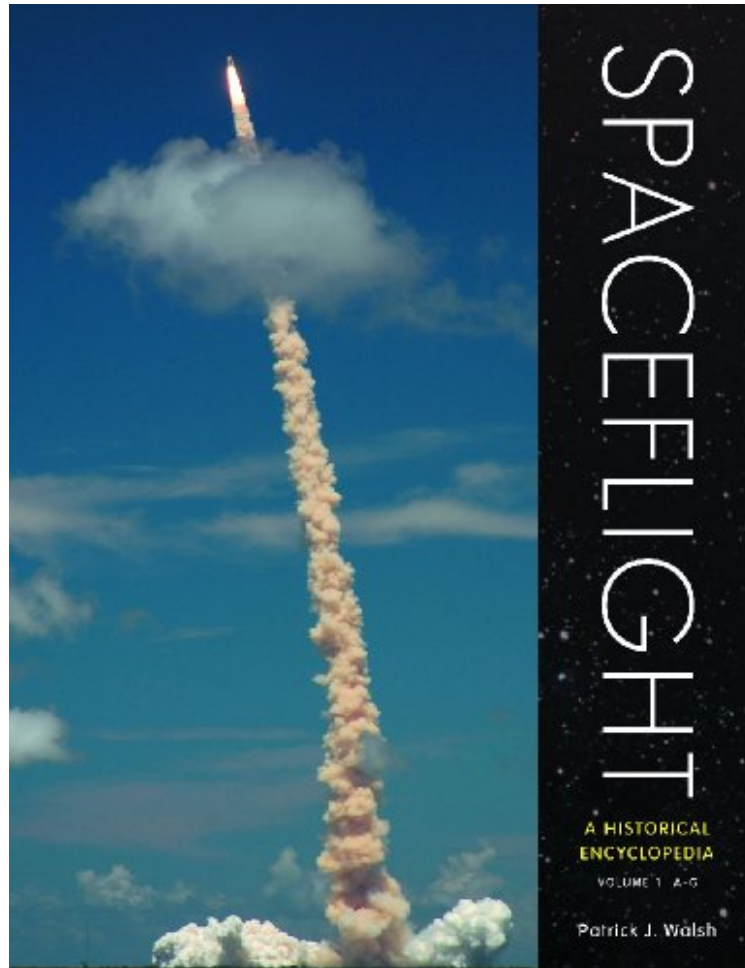


[E-BOOK] Spaceflight [3 volumes]: A Historical Encyclopedia

## Spaceflight [3 volumes]: A Historical Encyclopedia

*Patrick J Walsh*

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**Patrick J Walsh : Spaceflight [3 volumes]: A Historical Encyclopedia** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spaceflight [3 volumes]: A Historical Encyclopedia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer On time and well received. Thanks. G.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Enables readers to cross-reference mission descriptions with brief biographies of crew... By RNS While Walsh's previous book, "Echoes Among the Stars: A Short History of the U.S. Space Program," was a slim narrative history, this three-volume set is much more extensive. With 1,473 pages, and almost 700 alphabetically-arranged entries, one finds that half of the entries are devoted to biographical details of cosmonauts, astronauts, and mission-support administrative/political figures and the other on topical/subject entries on various American, Soviet and other missions. An entry may range in length of just a few paragraphs on obscure topics, to 18 or more pages for more extensive topics such as that for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The set is illustrated with almost 150 b/w photos. Perhaps the most useful application for the set is how it

enables readers to cross-reference mission descriptions with brief biographies of crewmen. And, it's a perfect resource for those looking for mission description/summaries, the whole gamut of mission-series, from the Vostok and Mercury, to the Soyuz, Gemini, Salyut, Skylab, Apollo and the Space Shuttle. The approach to the subject is that of a journalist: straight-forward, but well-written, factual, and noncontroversial. The work is a journeyman's chronicle of the public history of space exploration; discussion of the military programs of the United States and Soviet Union and of the classified intelligence programs, are left to other writers. When one considers the enormous number of books, articles, newspaper accounts, dissertations, technical reports, oral, video and print documentary histories, biographies, mission descriptions, etc. -- never mind the primary source materials in American and Soviet archives and in the NASA History Office - one wonders, "How good could a 3-volume set of this nature be? Indeed, one could easily compile a 50-volume set of official documents profiling the history of humankind's space programs. Obviously, with a three-volume set, much of the content can highlight only the most prominent missions, men, women and other "supporting" individuals that make up the history of human space exploration. There are no main entries, for example that profile the companies that built the labs and other facilities, and the rockets and shuttles; none for the various boosters e.g. the Delta, Atlas, Saturn or Jupiter rockets. Nor are there broad entries on the military missile commands, or the history of Cape Canaveral and its transition to Cape Kennedy as the prime launch facility for the United States. Nor for various important satellites such as: the Tiros 1 weather satellite; or the Telstar 1 communications satellite; or, for Ranger 7, that relayed photographs of the moon. Then, in regard to the biographical entries, a comparison of the names given specific entries with biographical descriptions of cosmonauts posted on the official NASA website reveals that 14 of the 41 cosmonauts are not among the 350 or so biographical entries in Walsh's set. While some of the cosmonauts were backup crewmen, others did fly or had other prominent roles in the Russian space program. Then, for young students doing a paper on the Challenger disaster, will not find a specific entry for "Challenger" or "Challenger Disaster"; there's not even a "see reference" in the text. Instead, they must consult the set's cumulative index, look under "Challenger accident," and then follow a "See" reference to: "Space Shuttle Mission 25: STS-51L." Offsetting these weaknesses is the inclusion of a detailed 43-page subject index and helpful appendices: a 25-page "Chronology of Human Spaceflight" and a 19-page "Chronology of Extravehicular Activities (EVAs). Then, for those seeking more information, there's a selective, 27-page bibliography of websites, books, articles and other documents cited under the 16 broad headings: "Apollo Program"; "Apollo-Soyuz Test Project"; "Commercial Space Projects"; "Gemini Program"; "International Space Programs"; "International Space Station"; "Lunar Exploration"; "Mercury Program"; "Military Aspects of Space Exploration"; "Mir Space Station"; "Philosophical Aspects of Space Exploration"; "Russian Space Program"; "Skylab Program"; "Soviet Space Program"; "Space Science"; and "Space Shuttle Program." All good term paper topics. This accurate, authoritative and well-crafted account of human space flight is recommended for middle and high school libraries, public libraries, and college libraries supporting undergraduate students. R. Neil Scott Middle Tennessee State University

This book is a comprehensive history of the first six decades of space exploration, from the end of World War II to the modern era of routine international cooperation in space. Comprises 700 AZ entries covering every human spaceflight and all significant robotic space exploration programs, with hundreds of biographical entries. Includes 148 beautiful and historic photographs illustrating all major articles, including international (non-U.S., non-Russian) space programs, action photos showing astronauts and cosmonauts at work in space, and photos of space vehicles and equipment. Provides bibliographic listings, organized by topic, of print and online sources for further reading. Includes complete chronologies of the space shuttle and Soyuz programs through 2008.

From Booklist Since 1957, when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, mankind has ventured far into space. *Spaceflight: A Historical Encyclopedia* covers every human space mission as well as other significant lunar and planetary exploration expeditions from 1957 to the 2008 space shuttle and Soyuz flights. The focus of this work is on the U.S. and former Soviet Union; in addition, major space initiatives by countries such as China, France, and India are included. Written at a level accessible to the student and layperson, the 700 alphabetically arranged entries range in length from several paragraphs to several pages. Specific spaceflight missions and biographies of astronauts, cosmonauts, and others important to spaceflight constitute the majority of entries. Biographical entries include detailed information relevant to the education, careers, and the amount of time the subject spent in space. Sample entries include Cassini Saturn Orbiter; Food in space; Grissom, Virgil I. (Gus); Mars: Soviet Russian missions; Lunar Orbiter Program; Resnik, Judith A.; Sakigake; and Viktorenko, Aleksandr S. There are entries for every Apollo, Gemini, Mercury, Salyut, Soyuz, space shuttle, and Vostok mission through 2008; through November 2008 there have been 124 space shuttle missions. Appendixes include a 26-page Chronology of Human Spaceflight from 1961 through 2008, a 20-page Chronology of Extravehicular Activities (EVAs) from 1965 through 2008, and a 28-page topically arranged annotated bibliography of books, government documents, and Web sites. About 150 black-and-white photographs supplement the text. A well-constructed 44-page index, included in each volume, provides subject access to the contents. The strength of *Spaceflight: A Historical Encyclopedia* is in the lengthy biographies of hundreds of

key people relevant to the space program and the thorough coverage of all human spaceflight missions. In addition, it is more current than other reference sources on the topic. Recommended for high-school, undergraduate, and public libraries. Also available as an e-book. --Nancy Cannon Patrick Walsh loves his work, he loves space, he loves to write and all of that shows in this work. It is a very detailed encyclopedia, a product of lots of reading and lots of research, a flowing history, a narrative story, and it is the classical difficult-to-put-down book. It is a beautiful read; I have worked in aerospace for 57 years and space in particular for 42 years and I love this portrait of the life that I have lived. -- Story Musgrave, NASA Astronaut 1967-1997, in the Foreword to *Spaceflight: A Historical Encyclopedia*"Evidently bound by love to the study, Walsh has assembled this three-volume reference, which includes entries on every space mission, both human and robotic, and is distinguished, also, by a substantial number of biographical entries covering astronauts, Russian cosmonauts, and other non-US, and non-Russian cosmonauts. Arranged alphabetically, the 699 entries are enhanced with small BW photos; a chronology, a bibliography, and a comprehensive index appear in the third volume. Clear, accessible writing and comprehensive coverage make this a useful and engaging reference that will serve a wide audience of students and the general public as well as industry workers interested in the context and history of their endeavors." - SciTech Book News"magnificentThere is no shortage of reference material relating to space travel and exploration, but the vast majority of this literature falls far short of *Spaceflight*.A highly recommended purchase for this country's public and academic libraries." - Library Journal"The strength of *Spaceflight: A Historical Encyclopedia* is in the lengthy biographies of hundreds of key people relevant to the space program and the thorough coverage of all human spaceflight missions. In addition, it is more current than other reference sources on the topic. Recommended for high-school, undergraduate, and public libraries." - Booklist"Recommended. Lower- and upper-level undergraduates; general readers." - Choice"This set is recommended for middle and high school libraries, public libraries, and academic libraries supporting undergraduate nonspecialists." - Reference User Services QuarterlyFrom the AuthorIn comparing this work to my first book, *Echoes Among the Stars: A Short History of the U.S. Space Program*, I've often joked that *Spaceflight* is "a long history of everyone's space program."As I look at the finished work, I truly believe that it's fair to say that this three volume history is definitively comprehensive in its scope, and accurate and respectful in its approach to all of the individuals and events it chronicles.I'm also proud to note that *Spaceflight* was a monumental labor of love that required me to immerse myself in the process of research and writing about the exploration of outer space for a very long time. I can honestly say I enjoyed virtually every moment of studying this fascinating impulse of our shared human history, and I am so very grateful to my editors at Greenwood / ABC-CLIO and their excellent production staff for their terrific support of my work.Most of all, I am grateful for the remarkable support and encouragement of my dear Mom, whose unfailing care made this work possible. -- Patrick J. Walsh, April, 2013