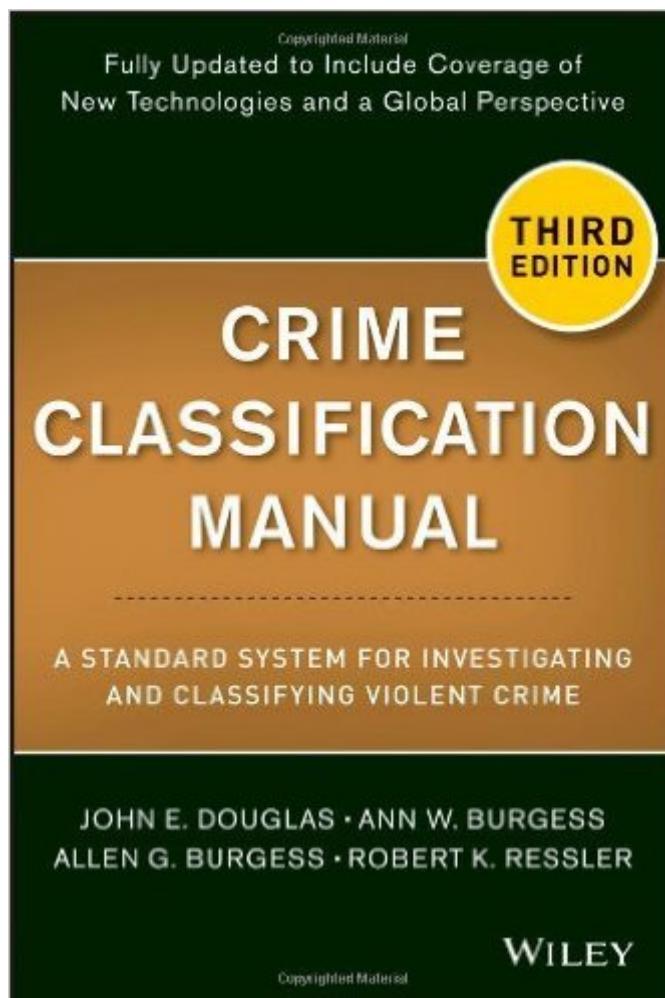


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Crime Classification Manual: A Standard System For Investigating And Classifying Violent Crime



Synopsis

Praise for Crime Classification Manual "The very first book by and for criminal justice professionals in the major case fields. . . . The skills, techniques, and proactive approaches offered are creatively concrete and worthy of replication across the country. . . . Heartily recommended for those working in the 'front line' of major case investigation." ¹John B. Rabun Jr., ACSW, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children "[CCM] is an outstanding resource for students pursuing forensic science degrees. It provides critical information on major crimes, which improve the user's ability to assess and evaluate." ²Paul Thomas Clements, PhD, APRN-BC, CGS, DF-IAFN Drexel University Forensic Healthcare Program The landmark book standardizing the language, terminology, and classifications used throughout the criminal justice system Arranged according to the primary intent of the criminal, the Crime Classification Manual, Third Edition features the language, terms, and classifications the criminal justice system and allied fields use as they work to protect society from criminal behavior. Coauthored by a pioneer of modern profiling and featuring new coverage of wrongful convictions and false confessions, the Third Edition: Tackles new areas affected by globalization and new technologies, including human trafficking and internationally coordinated cybercrimes Expands discussion of border control, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Homeland Security Addresses the effects of ever-evolving technology on the commission and detection of crime The definitive text in this field, Crime Classification Manual, Third Edition is written for law enforcement personnel, mental health professionals, forensic scientists, and those professionals whose work requires an understanding of criminal behavior and detection.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you have read about true crime you've probably read John E. Douglas, Ann W. Burgess, and Robert K. Ressler. These experts and Allen G. Burgess are the authors of this Crime Classification Manual. If you are curious enough to read this review I think this 544 page volume (plus index) will fascinate you. The manual, according to the authors has received notice from FBI Investigative profilers, law enforcement officers, corrections and parole staff, mental health staff and students in forensic and criminal justice studies. The crime Classification Manual is similar to the Diagnostic and Statistic Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) used by the psychiatric community to diagnose patients and facilitate communication and research (and debate) within the mental health field. The stated purpose of this volume is to: Standardize terminology within the criminal justice field; facilitate communication within the CJ field and between criminal justice and mental health; educate the CJ system and the public, and to develop a data base for investigative research. The manual is divided into three sections: Crime analysis and Investigation, Classification of Crime Categories and Legal Issues. Each crime includes victimology, crime scene indicators, staging, common forensic findings and investigative considerations and is followed by a case study. There are five chapters about Homicide, and chapters about Arson/Bombing, Rape and Sexual Assault, Nonlethal Crimes, Computer Crimes, Increased Globalization of Crime, Mass and Serial Homicide and Poison and Biological weapons. What makes this book so fascinating are the case studies. This is a reference book.

In Crime Classification Manual: A Standard System for Investigating and Classifying Violent Crime, Douglas et al describe where this book came from, which informs the entire rest of the discussion. Earlier on in profiling, there was a general attempt to work with the DSM III (now V), the Diagnostic and Statistics Manual (APA), which was itself intended to help standardize diagnoses™ in psychiatric disciplines. Before DSM came out, Psych diagnoses were at times badly disorganized. However, DSM wasn't really a good fit for criminologists. For instance, the focus in the DSM quite appropriately is often on the patient's perception; not so much the attendant facts; great for the clinical or practicing psychologist but not so for the investigator, profiler, &c. The profile of a crime may well lend itself to quite a few DSM axes. This doesn't help classifying the crime nor the types of offenders. And so Douglas, Ressler, et al, came up with the idea to create a DSM

for crime. This is what you're seeing before you. This is an excellent early attempt to do something that is amazingly difficult. When one looks at the history of criminal classification, then looks at the CCM, this is a splendid step forward. But it's far from the end. Lots needs to be done on this in order for it to achieve the encyclopedic gravitas of the DSM (also, the DSM is deeply involved in how to charge for services – one reason it's so widely accepted). For instance, Douglas points that the original classification of crime scenes as Organized or Disorganized wasn't ideal in that any given crime scene may show components of each. As such, this book isn't offered as a pure textbook nor as a source whose only purpose is to convey pure information.

The primary purpose of the "Crime Classification Manual" is to help create "a standard system for investigating and classifying violent crime." Standardizing the terminology and classifications of can seem like dull stuff. But it's very important in a practical ways. For example, you can hardly write a law concerning punishments for different types of crimes without agreeing on definitions of those crimes. I do not have the previous 2 editions, but if you do and are wondering about the changes in the Third Edition, here is what the authors say:

- A) New coverage of wrongful convictions and false confessions
- B) Expands and introduces new areas affected by globalization as well as new technologies. Examples: human trafficking and international cybercrimes
- C) Expands sections on border control, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), as well as Homeland Security
- D) Updates all sections as far as how new technologies are changing how crimes are committed and how they are detected

This is fascinating reading. Facts are stated without sensationalism, so it can get a little dry. But this isn't meant to be a true-crime novel, so if you don't expect it to be, you'll find it interesting. For each type of murder, such as Contract Killer, you'll read sections on:

1. Defining Characteristics. Victimology: What will you usually find out about the victim of a contract killing. For example, "the victim's risk is situational. It is the offender's perception of the victim as an obstacle that puts the victim at risk. The risk for the offenders (contractor and killer) is dependent on their relationship with each other and the experience and expertise of the offender.

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