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Joel Whitburn Presents Rock Tracks 1981-2008. Menomonee Falls, Wis., Record Research, 2008. 400p. illus. \$49.95. ISBN 0-89820-174-8. ISBN 13: 978-0-89820-174-1.

The 3d edition of this resource compiled by the chart guru Joel Whitburn provides numerous lists of top-rated rock songs, otherwise known as tracks. The main section is an alphabetic listing by artist of all tracks reaching *Billboard Magazine*'s "Mainstream Rock" and "Modern Rock" charts. Under each artist is a brief biography, followed by the tracks, which are grouped by album and placed in chronological order. Additional data includes the date of the track's debut, the chart in which the track appeared, the highest chart position, total weeks charted, peak position on *Billboard*'s Hot 100, and album label and number. Additional symbols, highlighting, and underscoring provide more information, although the meaning is unclear unless one consults the user's guide at the beginning of the book. Following the artist section is a title listing, with a simple code to indicate the chart in which the track appeared, the highest chart position, and year the track peaked. Finally, Whitburn provides groupings such as the top 100 artists in rank order, artists with most charted tracks, top tracks of all time and by certain periods, and more. Also included in this 3d edition is an expanded Classic Rocks Tracks, which lists tracks from 1964-1980 that are still being played today on classic rock radio stations. For the serious music lover who frequently peruses charts in old issues of *Billboard Magazine*, Whitburn's book is an invaluable timesaver. More casual fans will likely get lost with the details provided in the main artist listing, and simply use the book to identify the most popular songs from their favorite rock bands, or entertain themselves with some of Whitburn's "Top Artist" or "Top Tracks" lists. This work is recommended for school and public libraries.—**Kevin McDonough**