

to help develop or expand a preservation or book conservation program. An interesting collection development example that is discussed in the book is an assessment of the conditions of books residing in the stacks compared to the condition of books being returned to circulation. Results of these surveys guided decisions about where, when, and how much attention should be applied to book repair, bookbinding, how to develop book conservation programs, and how effective past preservation efforts have been.

*Library Collection Assessment through Statistical Sampling* will be of limited interest to most libraries that already have a mature preservation or conservation program. Readers interested in preservation will receive only a basic overview of issues that one would encounter in survey-based assessment projects. In Baird's earlier book, *Preservation Strategies for Small Academic and Public Libraries*, many of the topics covered in the current book are discussed in a single chapter. In fact, sections of the 2003 book are repeated word-for-word in the current book (for example, compare page 65 in this book with page 16 in the 2003 book). Baird simply could have cited his previous work instead and put more effort into developing a more thorough overview of statistical sampling techniques and data analysis tools.

While all of the examples in the book are specific to preservation and loosely address collection development or collection management, some of the same principles could be applied to other assessment needs. Other books or resources, however, will need to be consulted if one is looking for an explanation of statistical methods to guide assessment projects. An anticipated follow-up to this book would be a discussion on collection assessment for electronic resources, including online books and journals. —Hilary Davis ([hilary\\_davis@ncsu.edu](mailto:hilary_davis@ncsu.edu)), *North Carolina State University Libraries, Raleigh*

***Disaster Response and Planning for Libraries.*** By Miriam B. Kahn. Chicago: ALA, 2003. 152p. \$40 soft-bound, ALA members \$36 (ISBN 0-8389-0837-3).

***Disaster Management for Libraries and Archives.*** Ed. Graham Matthews and John Feather. Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2003. 236p. \$79.95 hard-bound (ISBN 0-7546-0917-0).

Disasters are by their nature unpredictable. This makes the content of these two works even more important for librarians today in a time of extremes (of weather and manmade problems) and tight budgets. A disaster plan is, as the cliché states, like a parachute. We hope never to have to use one, but it is better to have one and not need it than to need one and not have it. This pair of books offers many valuable insights into the disaster planning and recovery processes.

Both of these works emphasize the importance of having a disaster plan in place. During a crisis is no time to be making decisions that could affect one's institution for years to come. It is much easier to establish recovery criteria for collections and to delegate responsibilities before anything happens that would require their use. A well-trained and informed staff is able to react more quickly and efficiently to any situation as it arises. An effective disaster plan will also facilitate dealing with vendors, insurers, and helpful colleagues at other institutions.

*Disaster Response and Planning for Libraries* provides clear instructions for creating a disaster plan for an institution and responding to a disaster after it occurs. Many forms and checklists are included in the book for quick reference. The author breaks the process down into four steps: response, recovery, prevention, and planning. Response covers the period immediately after the disaster. This section contains much detailed information on the cleaning and repair of books and other library materials damaged by

water, fire, or other factors. Recovery concerns the long-term return of the library to its former level of service: replacement of lost or damaged materials, renovation and reconstruction of facilities, and so on. Included in an appendix is a thorough list of businesses and organizations that can be of help in a crisis. Prevention deals with the issue—all too easy for busy library managers to forget—of maintaining a safe and healthful workplace. Some of the suggestions included are obvious (like potential fire hazards), others less so (like damage incurred during a renovation project). If your library does not have a disaster plan, or if you would like to be sure it is as thorough as it ought to be, *Disaster Response and Planning for Libraries* is the book for you.

*Disaster Management for Libraries and Archives* is an effective complement to the previous work. International in scope, it contains chapters dealing with the physical and emotional effects of disasters as well as case studies written by veterans of these events. These sections provide some of the most compelling portions of the book. Fires in England and Sweden, war in the Balkans, wildfires in Australia—all of these and more are discussed.

As in the other book, planning is emphasized here. This is especially important in joint-use facilities. Examples given include libraries in government buildings in Australia and a public library-city archives in England. Another chapter deals with cooperative ventures among libraries in the United States. As with the disaster plan itself, the time to build links with other institutions in your area is before disaster strikes your library or theirs. The authors provide general guidelines applicable to all libraries, as well as specific items gleaned from hard experience.

During a crisis such as a fire it is natural to focus on recovering a library's materials. Maj Klasson, in the

chapter on a library fire in Sweden, discusses the emotional toll taken on the staff of the library. It might be expected that staff members who were actually in the building during the fire and its aftermath would suffer from stress and depression, but librarians at other branches were affected also, for example, by increased workloads and a general sense of powerlessness that pervaded the entire community. Many of the library's regular patrons were also concerned about their library.

Many of the same recovery issues are addressed in the chapter on a library fire in Norwich, England. Both of these chapters show how important communication is during a disaster and its aftermath. By keeping staff and the community updated about progress and plans for the future, library administrators can focus energies and attention on the future, boosting morale and maintaining forward momentum. Regular communication also fosters a sense of concern and goodwill within the community, both of which are valuable assets to a library in crisis. *Disaster Management for Libraries and Archives*, while not as essential as *Disaster Response and Planning for Libraries*, is a valuable complement to it. This book provides a variety of perspectives on some of the issues involved in planning and reacting to different disaster that may befall one's institution.

Neither of these books explicitly discusses the September 11, 2001, tragedy in detail (Matthews and Feather do deal with the destruction of libraries during the war in the Balkans), but it remains the specter at the feast. These events, like the Oklahoma City bombing and other acts of destruction, are grim reminders that we all live in an age with the ever present possibility of disaster. Man can be as pernicious as fire, flood, or earthquake. As unpleasant as disaster can be to contemplate, these books serve to remind all of us that the alternative of willful ignorance or unreasoning

optimism can be even more dangerous.—*Dan Forrest (dan.forrest@wku.edu), Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green*

***Authority Control in Organizing and Accessing Information: Definition and International Experience.*** Eds. Arlene G. Taylor, Barbara B. Tillett. Binghamton, N.Y.: Haworth, 2004. 651p. \$34.95 softbound (ISBN 0-7890-2716-X); \$59.95 hardbound (ISBN 0-7890-2715-1). Published simultaneously as *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* 38, no. 3/4, and 39, no. 1/2.

The International Conference on Authority Control: Definition and International Experiences was held in Florence, Italy, in February 2003. It brought together many respected experts from Europe and the United States for a review of the current state of the art in authority control. The proceedings were originally published in Italian, and this volume represents the English version with a few additional papers solicited by the editors.<sup>1</sup> Almost half the papers were contributed by Italians. There have been a number of works published on authority control in the last two or three decades, but most have focused on the practical aspects of authority work in libraries. This is the first broad and comprehensive overview of the field since the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) institutes in 1979.<sup>2</sup> More than forty contributions are brought together to cover every aspect of authority control today, from international standards-setting developments to a variety of local and specialized projects that incorporate some aspect of authority control.

The proceedings open with an address by Michael Gorman, who was also part of the 1979 institutes. In his usual curmudgeonly style, he gives an overview of the concepts of authority control and a critique of metadata schemas such as the Dublin Core. He argues that such metadata should

be either abandoned or brought up to the standard of traditional cataloging norms.

The rest of the proceedings are divided into five sections. The first is called "State of the Art and New Theoretical Perspectives." Barbara Tillett, who has been so instrumental in the world of authority control for many years, provides a valuable historical review of the last quarter century and elucidates current developments in the field, such as the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR), changes in the concept of Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), and the Virtual International Authority File. Arlene Taylor reports on a survey of teachers to study how authority control is taught in North American schools of library and information science. The results show general agreement on the importance of authority control, but few indications that students are learning much about it amid the other subjects competing for their attention.

The second, third, and fourth sections form the heart of the book and will have perhaps the broadest interest and value. The full range of standards and activities around the world is described, in most cases by experts who are directly involved in the respective institutions and projects. The second section is called "Standards, Exchange Formats, Metadata." Gloria Cerbai Ammannati describes the efforts of the *Bibliografie Nazionale Italiana* to impose some kind of authority control on its records. Marie-France Plassard describes the work of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) with regard to authority control, and Glenn Patton discusses IFLA's Functional Requirements and Numbering of Authority Records (FRANAR) model. Pino Buizza explores how the concepts of authority control have evolved from the days of the Paris Principles, and Alberto Petrucciani argues for greater attention to the relationships between