which is to ground her writing in the published literature on the subject. As a result, the reader may ultimately experience this small book as the happy blending of a thoughtful and adequately written literature review of PDA with a pragmatic guide to implementing such a program.—Beatrice Caraway (bcaraway@trinity.edu), Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas

References


Intended for a broad audience of librarians at many different kinds of institutions, Building and Managing E-Book Collections provides a strong starting place to get an e-book collection program underway. The manual is divided into three parts: Part I: E-Books in Context; Part II: E-Books in Detail; and Part III: E-Books in Practice. Beginning with a history of e-books and perspectives from both publishers and libraries on the market for e-books, Building and Managing E-Book Collections continues with an overview of collection management from selection to assessment, and concludes with six examples of successful implementations at a wide range of institutions.

Academic libraries—health science libraries in particular—are especially well represented by contributors. True to the manual’s intent to appeal to a broad audience, however, the how-to chapters address concerns that would be faced by any library. In addition, editor Richard Kaplan has assembled case studies from professionals with experience in public libraries, school libraries, and publishing.

Part I: E-Books in Context sets the stage. Although e-books are no longer newcomers to library collections, their business models, workflows, and service models are in flux. The relationship between libraries, publishers, and patrons in the ecology of e-books remains unsettled. Nadia J. Lalla in chapter 3, “E-Book Publishing—The View from the Library,” offers a framework through which all of the chapters that followed may be considered:

As soon as the decision is made to purchase books in digital format for a library, a myriad of decisions must be made. Should e-books be purchased via a single exclusive publisher or a third-party vendor? What format will the e-book have? On which e-book platform will it appear? How should libraries acquire e-books? The answers to these questions can unexpectedly shape a library’s collections and its future decisions regarding the funding of those collections. (23)

In a period of ongoing transition, collection management decisions must be made with a long view.

Part II: E-Books in Detail tackles pragmatic questions regarding the specific collection management activities of selecting, licensing, budgeting, cataloging, and assessing e-book collections. In addition, an entire chapter focuses on best practices for e-book collection management in public libraries. As a whole, this section presents the meat of the manual, that is, the chapters that will be most thumbed through over time. One topic that may have deserved its own chapter in the second section is the long-term preservation of e-books acquired in perpetuity, as opposed to those acquired by lease, since e-books present unique digital preservation concerns. Additionally, if the order of the chapters roughly suggests a sequence of activities for managing e-book collections—selection, license negotiation, budgeting, cataloging, assessment—it would be preferable to consider first rather than last. Overall, however, the how-to chapters in this section frame and address many crucial questions: To what extent are the activities required for managing e-books comparable to the activities required for managing other e-resources? How can institutions determine which user access model (e.g. patron-driven acquisition or pay-per-view) best meets their needs? How can institutions choose among the array of e-reader devices? What are common characteristics of e-book subscription packages? How can libraries re-allocate funds to support e-book collection development? How do acquisition models for e-books constrain cataloging decisions? In a tough budgetary climate, how can libraries effectively assess purchasing decisions? This section addresses these questions and many others.

Part III: E-Books in Practice presents six case studies ranging from eliminating paper books in a school library to circulating e-readers and changing staff roles to fit the purpose of managing e-book collections. While this section offers some of the most compelling chapters because they situate e-books so firmly within communities of users, this section provides too many success stories. For an individual or institution working to build an e-book collection from the ground up, reflective accounts or rigorous assessments of failed efforts may in fact afford richer lessons learned than do unmitigated success stories. “E-Books in a High School Library—Cushing Academy” contributed by Tom Corbett stands.
out as an exception. Corbett acknowledged that in one respect thoughtfully made decisions did not yield the hoped-for results. Library staff of Cushing Academy believed that a bold move to largely replace paper books with e-books would enable their library to better perform both roles of the school library: support of research and support of reading. Despite thoughtful requirements analysis and selection of vendors for both patron-driven acquisition of research content and federated search across e-books, journals, and encyclopedias, use of e-books in support of the library's research role disappointed. Far from being disheartening, the difference between expectations and results underscores the ongoing nature of building e-book collections through continual assessment, skills acquisition, and planning.

For those beginning to work with e-books, Building and Managing E-Book Collections frames the essential questions and provides valuable guidance for determining which solutions will suit an institution's particular context. With this guidance, libraries can aim to make collection management decisions with a long view during a continuing period of flux.—Chelcie Rowell (chelcie@live.unc.edu), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina


The back cover of Demystifying FRAD: Functional Requirements for Authority Data describes the volume as the “first book of its kind,” a phrase that proves to be a very apt descriptor. Besides Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD) published by the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) in 2009, only a few articles have been published on this topic. Now that RDA: Resource Description and Access is being adopted, understanding the underlying conceptual model behind authority data in conjunction with the new cataloging code is crucial for librarians who handle authority work. Jin, a librarian who specializes in and publishes about authority work, achieves her objective of offering a “basic [and accessible] explanation” (1) of the FRAD model.

The book tackles the topic in a logical manner, building the reader’s knowledge from the ground up. As the vocabulary of FRAD is similar to that of Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR), Jin rightly situates the discussion in this book within the larger concept of entity-relationship models, entities and attributes, and user tasks shared by both FRBR and FRAD. Jin lays foundational groundwork in the introduction to put readers on the same page with regard to identifying acronyms, the purpose of FRAD, and the context in which FRAD was created. She offers a precise yet succinct history of the development of FRBR and FRAD, and how RDA relates to these conceptual models. This background may not be new information for all readers, but the concise timeline approach and contextualization are helpful for understanding how and why the creation of FRAD was necessary.

The meat of the book consists of describing the entities, attributes, and relationships in FRAD. For each entity, Jin provides a thorough definition adapted from the aforementioned 2009 IFLA Study Group report on FRAD, and expanded for further clarity. Attributes are comprehensively explained, enhanced by examples and rationales for the importance of each attribute. For example, the entity “person” has “gender” as one of its attributes. Jin points out that assigning the value for the attribute “gender” is “especially important when two people have the same name in romanized form” (18). Rationales such as these not only establish a universal understanding for each attribute, but also take the guesswork out of determining why a librarian should take the time to assign a value for an attribute.

While the brief lesson on entity-relationship models and diagrams is informative, the diagrams included for practically every possible entity and attribute relationship are the most helpful. As Jin works through the eleven entities and their possible combinations to each other as well as various attributes, each combination is clearly displayed and explicated for the reader. These entity-relationship diagrams for each relationship and the coordinating descriptive paragraph provide practical, applicable scenarios for various entity and attribute combinations.

In the final section of the book, Jin maps the FRAD entities and attributes to RDA. While this section is the shortest, it is perhaps the most applicable as it allows the reader to see a visual demonstration of the end result of how the FRAD model informs the cataloging code. Jin is careful to point out when FRAD entities and attributes have not been mapped to RDA; this tends to occur when an entity falls into the subject chapters of RDA, which have not yet been written. Over twenty brief RDA authority records are included in this section, covering a multitude of possible entity and attribute combinations. No MARC mapping is provided, but the appendix features a FRAD-to-RDA mapping that is very helpful to locate the coordinating RDA rules for FRAD entities and attributes.

Demystifying FRAD serves as an excellent, all-in-one resource for understanding the FRAD model and its relationship to authority work under RDA. Its greatest applicability is as a “ready-reference” guide, a resource that a librarian can pull off the shelf when encountering questions about a specific situation. With very few exceptions, the book is logically organized and can be parsed for specific information via the extensive index. Librarians looking for an accessible