

explanation or elevator speech for their work might be interested in the manifesto included in the introduction, calling authority work “essential for effective retrieval of resources” and explaining that “because of the Internet, authority control has become even more important since users are now able to search across numerous databases” (3). Shortcomings of the book include some sections of repetitive prose that would have benefited from being presented in new and fresh ways. Also, the importance of FRAD for the “organization of information in the future” (1) is never thoroughly explained, except for RDA’s reliance on the model for authority work.

Learning about and gaining a better grasp on the underlying conceptual structure for authorities under RDA has enhanced my understanding of changes between the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules and the new code.⁴ This resource will be an asset for comprehending and completing authority work under RDA.—*Elyssa M. Sanner* (*esanner@nmu.edu*), *Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan*

References

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3. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records: Final Report* (The Hague: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, 2009), accessed February 18, 2013, <http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s13/frbr/>

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Rare Book Librarianship: An Introduction and Guide. By Steven K. Galbraith and Geoffrey D. Smith. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited, 2012. 185 p. \$55 acid-free paper (ISBN: 978-1-59158-881-8).

With unique perspectives and specializations developed through working with modern European books in an independent research library and modern American books at a large public university, Galbraith and Smith’s *Rare Books Librarianship* provides a broad overview of the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary for the successful professional. The work offers twelve chapters, each containing footnotes, suggested further reading, and in some instances, images, diagrams, and links to recommended websites. A brief biographical summary of each author as well as an ample index are provided.

The book opens with a brief overview of the history of rare book libraries involving the origin of book production, growth of book collecting, and types of rare book libraries. Chapter two, divided into two parts, describes the importance of rare books not only as texts but also as historical artifacts. Part one addresses the types of rare book bibliographies, particularly the components and terminology of a descriptive bibliography; part two discusses materials produced in the modern era (defined by the authors as 1800s to present), including types of collections, and the late nineteenth-century movement called “fine printing” (37) or the book as an art object. The following chapter covers the importance of researching the provenance of items in a rare book collection and the significance of appraisal values in evaluating and justifying the importance of a collection.

Chapter four provides an overview of the concepts involved in rare book conservation and preservation including best practices for handling, storing, stabilizing, and treating fragile materials in the collection. The succeeding chapter describes the importance of rare book digitization as not only a way of improving research access, but also as a way of decreasing prospective handling of materials and thus preserving them for posterity. Chapter six discusses basic planning and preventive measures involving theft, damage, and potential disasters. The subsequent chapter defines the elements of rare book collection development, and examples of general policies and acquisition strategies are provided. Chapter eight discusses the vital role of timely accessioning and cataloging of materials, which not only provides judicious access for researchers, but also inspires the confidence of current and prospective donors. The ninth chapter provides a brief overview of the essentials of copyright law when managing rare book collections. The succeeding chapter describes the best practices for providing outreach to local communities, publicizing to online communities, establishing fellowships to attract researchers, and marketing the collection through exhibits and exhibition loans. The penultimate chapter discusses the importance of continuing education and provides a plethora of recommended professional development resources. The book closes with a selected list of print and electronic reference resources that will aid the rare book professional.

Intended as an update of Roderick Cave’s *Rare Book Librarianship*,¹ the co-authors deliver an effective overview of the myriad aspects of managing rare book collections. Particularly noteworthy is the coverage of the textual and artifactual nature of rare books. Readers will find informative the presentation of terminology, early and noteworthy printers, and important points in the development of modern

printing. In addition, the discussion of best practices for preservation and collection maintenance provides excellent fundamentals concerning the anatomy of a book, correct ways of handling fragile materials, variety of protective structures for housing rare books, and common conservation treatments. Furthermore, practitioners will deem beneficial the suggested strategies for marketing and outreach to local communities and beyond. Commentary regarding rare book digitization effectively describes the important role of digital technologies, planning and execution of digital projects, challenges brought by evolving digitization standards, and that the “continued conservation of the artifact itself is of the utmost importance” (81). Additional notable items include the suggested materials for further reading within each chapter, as well as the significant but less comprehensive list of resources offered in the final chapter.

Some readers may find the limited coverage of copyright issues, security measures, and disaster preparations disappointing. Perhaps these topics could have benefited from additional contributions from experts in the field, or the inclusion of appendixes offering templates and examples of documentation. Nevertheless, special collections librarians and practitioners overseeing rare book collections of varying sizes within an academic, public, or special library setting may find this work useful. The novice and those who supervise professionals that manage rare book collections will benefit most.—*Anders Selhorst (abselhorst@gtcc.edu), Guilford Technical Community College, Jamestown, North Carolina*

Reference

1. Roderick Cave, *Rare Book Librarianship* (London: Clive Bingley, 1982).

Planning and Constructing Book & Paper Conservation Laboratories. Edited by Jennifer Hain Teper

and Eric Alstrom. Chicago: American Library Association, 2012. 230 p. \$67.95 softcover (ISBN: 978-0-8389-8601-1).

Teper and Alstrom developed this publication after their professional experiences led them to recognize a void in the relevant literature. The authors, who each direct conservation departments in academic libraries, had become frustrated with the lack of research available to support their individual efforts to design conservation laboratories. In an attempt to fill this information need, they compiled and edited a series of chapters by conservators and preservation administrators who offer their insights and experiences related to the design of new conservation laboratories and renovations of existing spaces. Although the contributors are experts in the field, the editors recognize in their introduction that the design of conservation laboratories is often highly subjective, and therefore the opinions presented can vary even within the small selection of chapters chosen for this publication.

Some chapters are broad in scope, discussing administrative issues related to project management, budgets, and scheduling, while other chapters focus on more specific technical features related to conservation laboratories, such as water purification and quarantine areas. Important distinctions are made in the differences between a space intended to serve as a bindery and one that is to be a conservation laboratory, or even more specifically, book conservation labs versus paper conservation labs, and the varying needs of each. In addition to the lab spaces themselves, there is discussion of office space and dedicated areas for eating and drinking.

The chapter authors include a variety of interesting details, even for individuals who may have some experience with preservation and conservation functions within the library. For example, Alstrom suggests the use of

treatment sinks that are clear on three sides, to facilitate effective and safe teamwork when washing materials. He also recommends the placement of freezers outside of the lab to allow access for other library staff members who may discover wet or moldy materials beyond the hours that the lab is open. This recommendation that raises some security concerns, since it can be challenging to ensure that the freezer is available to all staff members who might need it, while not to individuals who could compromise the protection of the materials. Nonetheless, this recommendation illustrates the need to think creatively and contemplate a wide range of considerations when planning the location of laboratory resources.

The text of several chapters is supplemented and enhanced by photographs, diagrams, and tables. The visual aspects of the book help clarify many of the descriptions provided in the chapters, and the illustrations can serve as helpful guidelines for the would-be laboratory designer. There are some typographical errors throughout the book, both in the text and the illustrations (e.g., figure 2.1,21), but most are not obtrusive enough to be particularly jarring.

The most pervasive themes throughout the chapters are the need for flexibility, accessibility, organization and security in laboratory design, and the importance of planning for future growth. Design considerations are not limited to the health and well-being, so to speak, of the prospective collection materials that are likely to pass through these spaces. In addition to ensuring that the laboratory is equipped to properly handle and care for a wide variety of collections, other design elements focus on how laboratory design can affect and should account for the physical needs of staff members. This includes varying light levels to accommodate individuals of different ages and potentially varying visual abilities, as well as ergonomic