different, darker future where the race to reinvent libraries has left them as a poor second choice in their emerging role of digital content provider, while adversely affecting their capacity to provide traditional analog services. In the book's final essay, Janes reminds readers that libraries are "not [solely] playing a short-term game" (153). He suggests that libraries need to continue justifying to their communities that the services they provide are important, and that libraries are well equipped to provide them.

Most of the essays described above are positive and hopeful, though a few see more challenges and barriers ahead than opportunities. A couple even caution about making changes too quickly in response to technological advances, echoing in some ways Nicholson Baker's reflections on the rush to microfilm newspaper and other collections described in his book, *Double Fold*. Given that libraries are custodians of the world's cultural and intellectual heritage, and recognizing that decisions are sometimes irreversible, these cautions should be at the forefront for librarians. Nonetheless, the one thing that each of the essayists and Professor Janes agree on is that libraries are in a time of great change, and that librarians need to adapt quickly to continue meeting patron needs and professional responsibilities for the treasures they hold in trust.—*John E. Adkins (johnadkins@ucwv.edu), University of Charleston, Charleston, West Virginia*

The E-book Revolution: A Primer for Librarians on the Front Lines. By Kate Sheehan. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited, 2013. 146 p. $50 paperback (ISBN: 978-1-61069-183-3).

The e-book Revolution: A Primer for Librarians on the Front Lines provides a 360-degree panorama of the ever-changing e-book landscape. Its author, Kate Sheehan, composes a section for each of "the big picture issues around e-books," starting with those related to hardware, formats, distribution, and access, then addressing concerns directly related to libraries, like pricing and lending (xi). The final part of the book considers the position of libraries in the e-book landscape and the unique horizon ahead for them. Although the text's primary focus is to help public librarians grasp the many issues surrounding e-books, the chapters titled "Readers," "Problem Solvers," and "Scenarios for the Future" paint an inspiring portrait of the library's role in the digital age and are worth reading for anyone interested in the future of librarianship.

In the opening paragraphs, Sheehan addresses the million-dollar question: Will e-books replace print texts? She uses an apt comparison with radio and television to show e-books are not completely replacing print. Part of the reason for the limited influence of e-books, Sheehan points out, is the hardware and format wars. Much of chapter 1 provides baseline information about various e-reader devices and their many proprietary software formats. As Sheehan insinuates, a large problem in the industry, ironically, is that the universal format, EPUB, plays on every reading device except the most popular, Amazon's Kindle (7).

Chapter 2, cleverly titled "The Rules of the Road," begins the text's attempt to navigate readers through the winding roads of e-book ownership, distribution, and publishing. Here Sheehan quickly looks at digital rights management, copyright, and the first-sale doctrine and their effect on traditional library lending practices. Just as the slow-moving vehicle sign is unfamiliar to a city driver, e-book acquisition is new to libraries. According to Sheehan, "The current e-book market requires us not only to purchase books that aren't objects, but to purchase books we may not own" (23). The sections that follow present an even more confusing image for libraries, one that makes determining who reads, sells, and purchases e-books akin to negotiating a four-way stop when all cars arrive simultaneously. Chapter 3 examines data about e-book reader habits from Pew's *Internet & American Life Project* and briefly delves into what e-book vendors sell to public, academic, and school libraries. Chapter 4 explores the "big six" publishers—HarperCollins, Penguin, Macmillan, Random House, Simon and Schuster, and Hachette—their history with e-books, whether they supply to libraries, and how they price their digital editions.

Midway through the book, Sheehan turns the discussion from the physical environment of e-books to their effect on the traditional book ecosystem. Libraries are a main player in this ecosystem, and Sheehan spends quite a bit of time describing this exceptional and difficult position. According to Sheehan, "Libraries are caught between patron expectations, vendor restrictions, and publishers' demands" (75). Chapter 5 investigates the complex relationship libraries have with vendors. When it comes to promoting discoverability, libraries and e-book vendors are allies; but advocating for interlibrary loan privileges and against egregious pricing models have put libraries at odds with these same vendors. Chapter 6 touches on the demands e-books place on public, academic, and school libraries, and chapter 7 explores how accessibility issues tied to electronic texts are affecting libraries' relationships with readers.

In the book's final sections, Sheehan shifts to solutions and looks toward the future. Here she does an excellent job reporting innovative e-book initiatives and delivering a rousing perspective on changes in librarianship. Chapter 8 briefly covers several encouraging stories, like Douglas County Libraries' homegrown e-book program, Ann Arbor District Library's local history digital archive, and Gluejar's Kickstarter-like platform to deliver open access e-books chosen and

funded by readers. These stories have a common theme of community outreach that Sheehan ponders in the final chapter. As long as proprietary software formats and restrictive digital rights management exist, Sheehan believes readers will be trapped "in their own walled gardens" (113). She feels that engaging communities of readers and colleagues may be the only way to break down these barriers and keep libraries alive.

This short book provides an exhaustive overview of the current e-book environment. At times, the density of information is dizzying, as Sheehan carries readers back and forth through circumstances in different libraries and marketplace conditions. While the book is a must-read for public librarians tossed into the digital fray, it will not serve the needs of every e-book enthusiast. For those who want in-depth coverage on specific aspects of e-books, this title is not for you. Yet the book is easy to negotiate with chapters that are titled informatively and that contain double-lined boxes of additional information. It's the perfect beginning for the e-book novice.— *Brian Norberg (brnorber@ncsu.edu), North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina*

Information Resource Description: Creating and Managing Metadata. By Philip Hider. Chicago: ALA Editions, 2013. 220 p. $99.95 softcover (ISBN: 978-0-8389-1201-0).

This book about descriptive metadata specifically for use in information retrieval systems is divided into nine chapters and includes lists of selected resources, further reading, and metadata standards. In his latest book, Philip Hider discusses metadata produced by information professionals, authors, users, and computers in broad terms. It is not a manual, but an introduction to the field intended for students and practitioners looking for bigger picture. Hider had previously co-authored a book with Ross Harvey on metadata and information organization titled Organising Knowledge in a *Global Society: Principles and Practice in Libraries and Information Centres* (Chandos, 2008).

Information Resource Description focuses on how information resources are organized through their description (metadata) in the contemporary environment and the process of description and metadata as related to retrieval tools. The author addresses questions such as, Why are descriptive metadata critical? In what contexts do metadata exist? When do metadata work and when not?

After a brief introduction to the vocabulary and defining of scope, the book dives into the concept of information resource attributes to look at the nature of metadata and why metadata are needed. Both describer and user contexts are important to consider: "Metadata creators should all start with the same fundamental question: what metadata will most help users to obtain the information they are looking for?" (16). A variety of information-seeking styles and goals are identified through review of several decades of literature on this topic. Information resource contexts are also considered, as are particular information resources designed for specific uses.

Tools and systems are the other side of the coin in understanding metadata's role in information retrieval. The author describes organizing information as arranged, labeled, and indexed to improve effective access, drawing from examples such as bibliographic databases, library catalogs, archival finding aids, and museum registers. A variety of metadata sources are also compared. Resource creators, publishers, indexes and abstracts, and computers are examples of metadata sources. "In a world so full of information, some might wonder why people need help finding it. The more information there is, however, the more difficult it is to find the best information" (61). To make use of the flood of information resources, one needs informationseeking and literacy skills and effective information-retrieval tools.

Metadata quality is vital and can be assessed by its functionality, comprehensiveness, accuracy, clarity, and consistency. Vocabulary and authority control, principles of best practice, and quality assurance are discussed as ways to improve metadata quality. Higher quality generally means higher cost, so cost–benefit analysis is covered in this discussion as well.

Metadata standards are needed to facilitate sharing. In a chapter that looks unavoidably a bit like alphabet soup, the author looks at standards created for elements, format, and transmission. These standards are divided among web publishing, libraries, digital libraries, archives, museums, book publishing, book indexing, database indexing, e-research (for example data repositories), education, audiovisual industries, business, government, and registries. Second, the author looks at vocabularies as standards for metadata values, and discusses controlled subject vocabularies, subject headings, subject thesauri, subject classification schemes, taxonomies and ontologies, nonsubject vocabularies, vocabulary mapping, and identification systems.

The final chapter of the book considers the future of metadata and prospects for different approaches to information retrieval. Three approaches are discussed: content-based information retrieval done by computers, social metadata created by end users, and professional description. The author concludes that there are merits and shortcomings of all three, but that they often complement each other.

This textbook gives a great overview of the complicated issues that affect information resource description today. Readers will need to do more research if they want to get deeper into any specific standard or schema.—*Hilary L. Robbeloth (hrobbeloth@ pugetsound.edu), University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington*