

superworks, and editions is both clarifying and illuminating.

Chapter 7 deals with “document languages”—those formal denotations used to describe carriers of recorded knowledge and information. (It is a small point, but I prefer the logic of the organization of AACR2, which deals with the carriers before the works whose manifestations they embody, to the order of chapters here.) The author discusses what she calls physical (carrier), publication, and access attributes in detail but, again, at a somewhat abstract level, largely divorced from the framework and content standards (MARC, ISBD, etc.) that we use to contain and record those attributes.

The last three chapters deal with “subject languages”—alphabetic and classificatory. The former is sometimes referred to as “natural language” (as opposed to the artificial language of classifications), but this is erroneous because, though words from natural language are used, they are employed in a highly stylized and formal manner. In chapter 8, Svenonius demarcates these languages and discusses vocabulary selection and the semantics and syntax of alphabetic-subject languages. Chapter 9 takes all this into very deep waters with a discussion of relational and referential semantics in constructing alphabetic subject languages (subject headings to you and me). The last chapter deals with the topic of synthesis in subject languages and the application of techniques taken from classification theory. The book concludes with an afterword on the future of its topic, notes on the chapters, and a twenty-page bibliography.

This relatively short book (the text occupies 198 of its 255 pages) is worth the demands it makes on the reader and should be part of the library of anyone with a serious interest in bibliographic control.—*Michael Gorman* ([michaelg@csufresno.edu](mailto:michaelg@csufresno.edu)), *California State University, Fresno*

#### Work Cited

Taylor, Arlene G. 1999. *The Organization of Information*. Englewood, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited.

**Managing Electronic Serials: Essays Based on the ALCTS Electronic Serials Institutes, 1997–1999.** Ed. Pamela M. Bluh. ALCTS Papers on Library Technical Services & Collections, no. 9. Chicago: ALA, 2001. 189p. \$38 (ISBN 0-8389-3510-9) LC00-67646.

**Developing and Managing Electronic Journal Collections.** By Donnelly Curtis, Virginia M. Scheschy, and Adolfo R. Tarango. How-To-Do-It Manuals, no. 102. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2000. 267p. \$55 (ISBN 1-55570-383-6) LC 00-55423.

**Selecting and Managing Electronic Resources.** By Vicki L. Gregory. How-To-Do-It Manuals, no. 101. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2000. 109p. \$55 (ISBN 1-55570-382-8) LC 00-41569.

**Successes and Failures of Digital Libraries.** Eds. Susan Harum and Michael Twidale. 35th Annual Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing, 1998. Champaign, Ill.: Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Univ. of Illinois, 2000. 134p. \$30 (ISBN 0-87845-107-2; ISSN 0069-4789).

**Collection Development in a Digital Environment.** Ed. Sul H. Lee. Binghamton, N.Y.: Haworth, 1999. 118p. \$49.95 (ISBN 0-7890-0794-0) \$19.95 pbk. (ISBN 0-7890-0827-0) LC 99-39118.

**Electronic Collection Management.** Ed. Suzan D. McGinnis. Binghamton, N.Y.: Haworth, 2000. 159p. \$69.95 (ISBN 0-7890-1308-8) \$34.95 pbk. (ISBN 0-7890-1309-6) LC 00-53864.

**Collection Development in an Electronic Environment.** Ed. Thomas E. Nisonger. *Library*

*Trends* 48, no. 4 (spring 2000): 639–941. Champaign, Ill.: Univ. of Illinois, 2000. Single issue, \$18.50 (ISSN 0024-2594).

**Assessing Digital Library Services.** Ed. Thomas A. Peters. *Library Trends* 49, no. 2 (fall 2000): 221–390. Champaign, Ill.: Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Univ. of Illinois, 2000. Single issue, \$18.50 (ISSN 0024-2594).

As the literature about electronic resources proliferates, it is increasingly difficult to examine the large number of new publications to sort out those likely to be of greatest interest and use to *LRTS* readers. As a strategy for dealing with the increased number of publications in a new area of growing interest, the review editor requested a “megareview” covering not one, two, or three titles, but eight recent books with seemingly interchangeable titles, all on the subject of managing electronic resources in libraries.

Careful examination of these titles reveals that four are dual publications, issued simultaneously as monographs and as journal issues, two from Haworth Press and two from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign. One is a set of conference papers bearing both an ISBN and an ISSN. The other three are ordinary monographs, although one, from ALCTS, consists of a set of multiauthored papers that originated as a conference program and subsequently grew into several well-attended regional institutes before publication in book form.

In this review, in order to give each title a fair share of attention and space, first each is described briefly; next they are examined as an integrated body of literature; and finally, they are evaluated in the broader context of available literature on the subject.

*Managing Electronic Serials* includes eleven chapters by different

authors, a bibliography, biographical sketches of the authors, and an index. Most papers include references, and some of the lists are quite extensive. The eleven chapters are "Seriality and the Web," by Regina Romano Reynolds; "Saddlepoints in Serials," by Ronald L. Larsen; "Electronic Serials into the Millennium," by Friedemann A. Weigel; "Managing Electronic Serials: An Overview," by Sharon Cline McKay; "Management and Technical Considerations for Acquiring and Accessing Electronic Serials," by George Machovec; "Seven Common Myths about Acquiring and Accessing E-journals," by Dan Tonkery; "How Intellectual Property Laws Affecting Libraries Are Changing," by Sarah E. Sully; "A License to Kill for . . .," by Faye A. Chadwell; "Cataloging Electronic Resources: The Practicalities," by Norma J. Fair, Steven C. Shadle, and Beverley Geer; "Nuts and Bolts: Public Service in an Electronic Environment," by Raye Lynn Thomas; and "Another New Frontier: Trailblazing Electronically," by Thomas W. Leonhardt.

The best chapters in *Managing Electronic Serials* are Larsen's, the keynote address at the first regional institute, which provides an excellent overview of the issues to be addressed in collecting, managing, and utilizing electronic serials; and Chadwell's, which furnishes librarians with a guide to obtaining better custom-negotiated licenses instead of passively accepting the standard licenses that vendors offer for their products. As an introduction to electronic serials, this book is an admirable success in furnishing the initial plunge into the area of collecting and managing library resources. Each chapter has something of value for the novice. Each author tries to combine a discussion of principles and underlying theory with practical matters; however some, like Fair et al., are more heavily weighted toward the practical

(to be expected given their topic, cataloging e-journals).

*Developing and Managing Electronic Journal Collections*, one of Neal-Schuman's valuable "How-to-Do-It Manuals for Librarians," consists of a preface, which briefly describes the authors' experience with e-journals at the University of Nevada-Reno, and eight chapters: "Introducing Electronic Journals"; "Selection"; "Technical Issues"; "Licensing and Legal Issues"; "The Order Process"; "Cataloging and Access"; "User Services"; and "Predictions for Electronic Journals." The appendixes include a glossary, sample collection policies, a method for comparing database source lists, a method for creating a full-text master list, and an electronic journal spreadsheet. Throughout the book, illustrations and sample screens augment the clearly written text. Theoretical principles are sometimes mentioned in passing, but this book is aimed at helping its readers do something concrete, thus its emphasis on systematic action. Each chapter opens with an overview and list of topics to be covered and, after the body of the chapter deals with each topic in turn, closes with a bibliography of additional sources to consult. Nothing is treated in depth, but everything is highly organized.

*Selecting and Managing Electronic Resources*, another of Neal-Schuman's well-written, carefully documented how-to manuals, approaches collection development for electronic resources from a more general viewpoint. Its chapters include "Collection Development Policies"; "Selection: Criteria and the Selection Process"; "Budgeting and Acquisitions"; "Organization and Access to Electronic Resources"; "Evaluation and Assessment"; "Copyright and Licensing Issues"; and "Preservation Issues." I assumed this manual would focus on monographs, complementing Curtis et al.'s manual on electronic journals from the same

series, but this is not the case. Some material in the two manuals overlaps, but *Selecting and Managing Electronic Resources* provides a context in which the greater detail about serials in Curtis et al. can be understood more readily.

*Successes and Failures of Digital Libraries* consists of an introduction by the editors and eleven chapters: "NSF/DARPA/NASA Digital Libraries Initiative: A Program Manager's Perspective," by Stephen M. Griffin; "Update on the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations," by Edward A. Fox; "Processing and Access Issues for Full-Text Journals," by William H. Mischo and Timothy W. Cole; "Federated Search of Scientific Literature: A Retrospective on the Illinois Digital Library Project," by Bruce Schatz et al.; "From Usability to Use: Measuring Success of Testbeds in the Real World," by Laura J. Neumann and Ann Peterson Bishop; "Semantic Issues for Digital Libraries," by Hsinchun Chen; "Technology Transfer in a Public University," by Robert Wedgeworth; "A Publisher's Perspective: More Successes than Failures," by Tim Ingoldsby; "Lessons Learned from Full-Text Journals at OCLC," by Thomas B. Hickey; "The Future of Annotation in a Digital (Paper) World," by Catherine C. Marshall; and "Give Me Documents or Give Me Death: A Millennial Meditation on Documents and Libraries," by David M. Levy.

The focus here is on the processes of digital library development in a multilibrary context, not on acquiring titles for individual collections. Aiming to discuss not only successes but also failures, the authors look closely at many aspects of the Digital Libraries Initiative, the largest such project based at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and far less deeply at other projects, such as OCLC's. After a close reading, one concludes that many issues and problems had to be addressed, but there were no failures. At most, author

Ingoldsby recognizes some disappointments (89).

Most chapters contain notes and references to sources, but two have none. The length of chapters varies from a few pages to twenty or more. Some are heavily illustrated; others not at all. Some are extremely detailed; others sketch only broad brushstrokes. Some are extraordinarily well written. In journal issues, such unevenness is expected; in a monograph, it draws criticism.

The papers in *Collection Development in a Digital Environment*, originally presented at the 1998 University of Oklahoma Libraries Conference, include: "Chaos Breeds Life: Finding Opportunities for Library Advancement during a Period of Collection Schizophrenia," by James G. Neal; "By the Dawn's Early Light," by Milton T. Wolf; "Collection Development and Professional Ethics," by Kenneth Frazier; "Making the Wild Wind Visible: Information Technology in a Brave New World," by Dennis Dillon; "Building the Global Collection—World Class Collection Development: A Chronicle of the AAU/ARL Global Resources Program," by Mary Case and Deborah Jakubs; "Scenario Planning and Collection Development," by Joan Giesecke; "Role of the Aggregator in the Emerging Electronic Environment," by Kathleen Born; and "Digital Information and the Subscription Agent as Information Coach," by Kit Kennedy.

The authors have produced well-written papers of similar length—all but two have references, and some are illustrated. One chapter worthy of special mention is Kenneth Frazier's piece on professional ethics in the electronic environment. In it, he explores two cases in which Gordon & Breach and Elsevier succeeded in using the law in ways that scholars and librarians might well find unethical. He also discusses "[t]he ongoing effort by publishers to use licensing con-

tracts to abolish interlibrary loan services for information in electronic formats"—services that librarians are struggling to preserve (34). Very little that he has to say is good news for libraries. Still, when the potential for large profits is not involved, glimmers of sunlight filter in, as with the ambitious global collection development project of the Association of American Universities and the Association of Research Libraries.

The overall structure of *Electronic Collection Management* is almost identical to *Collection Development in a Digital Environment*. All but one of the eight papers are similar in length—Baldwin's paper on collection development in the new millennium is nearly twice the length of the others. All have notes and references; some have illustrations. The chapters are "Cultivating Our Garden: The Impact of Digital Full Text Periodicals on the Liberal Arts College Library," by Barbara Doyle-Wilch and Carla Tracy; "Information Technology and Collection Development Departments in the Academic Library," by David C. Fowler; "SPARC: An Alternative Lifestyle for Academic Libraries," by Marina Oliver; "Challenges in Electronic Collection Building in Interdisciplinary Studies," by Kristin H. Gerhard; "Collection Development in the New Millennium—Evaluating, Selecting, Annotating, Organizing for Ease of Access, Reevaluating, and Updating Electronic Resources," by Virginia Baldwin; "Collection Development and Organization of Electronic Resources," by Gerald L. Newman; "Distance Learning and the Opportunities and Challenges for Libraries," by William J. Gibbs; and "Some Issues for Collection Developers and Content Managers," by Thomas Peters. What is most interesting about this volume is the absence of focused discussions on legal issues—contracts, licensing, negotiation—or the role of vendors. Though practical matters are covered, as in the descrip-

tion of SPARC, for the most part these authors take a step back to view the overall landscape of collection development.

In Nisonger's book, *Collection Development in an Electronic Environment*, the chapters are "Electronic Resources and Academic Libraries, 1980–2000: A Historical Perspective," by Ruth H. Miller; "Are We There Yet? Online E-resources Ten Years After," by Ann Okerson; "Electronic Resources: Are Basic Criteria for the Selection of Materials Changing?" by Curt Holleman; "Principles of Selection for Electronic Resources," by Paul Metz; "Love's Labour's Lost: The Failure of Traditional Selection Practice in the Acquisition of Humanities Electronic Texts," by Beau David Case; "Reviewing the World Wide Web—Theory versus Reality," by James H. Sweetland; "Collecting Full-Text CD-ROMs in Literature: Theory, Format, and Selection," by Roberta Astroff; "Selecting Research Collections for Digitization: Applying the Harvard Model," by Kristine R. Brancolini; "The Impact of Electronic Resources on Serial Cancellations and Remote Storage Decisions in Academic Research Libraries," by Janice M. Jaguszewski and Laura K. Probst; "Twilight of the Gods? Bibliographers in the Electronic Age," by Dan Hazen; "Impact of Electronic Resources on Collection Development, the Roles of Librarians, and Library Consortia," by Glenda A. Thornton; "Hybridity, Mutability, Multiplicity: Theorizing Electronic Library Collections," by Marlene Manoff; "The Acquisitions Culture Wars," by Edward Shreeves; and "Navigating the Parallel Universe: Education for Collection Management in the Electronic Age," by Virgil L. P. Blake and Thomas T. Surprenant.

Many, though not all, of these chapters are longer than those in the other multiauthored titles described here, running twenty pages or more.

Each begins with an abstract and closes with references, most of which are long lists of sources. The emphasis here is on selection in principle and practice, often approached in general, but sometimes with regard to specific subjects or media. Miller's opening chapter is the kind of broadly conceived, carefully prepared historical survey for which *Library Trends* is well known and highly prized. Metz's paper gives lists of both traditional and newer criteria for selecting electronic materials that will be of great practical value to readers. Hazen's analysis of the role of bibliographers should assuage fears that they are becoming passé. Blake and Surprenant's closing paper discusses the important question of how educators should teach collection development in this brave new world of electronic resources.

The final volume in this array is *Assessing Digital Library Services*. Chapters include "Evaluating Digital Libraries for Teaching and Learning in Undergraduate Education: A Case Study of . . . ADEPT," by Christine L. Borgman et al.; "Unobtrusive Data Analysis of Digital Reference Questions and Service at the Internet Public Library," by David S. Carter and Joseph Janes; "Bundles in the Wild: Managing Information to Solve Problems and Maintain Situation Awareness," by Paul Gorman et al.; "Digital Libraries and Their Challenges," by Daniel Greenstein; "Evaluating Digital Libraries: A Longitudinal and Multifaceted View," by Guy Marchionini; "Current Opportunities for the Effective Meta-Assessment of Online Reference Services," by Thomas A. Peters; "Digital Library Evaluation: Toward Evolution of Concepts," by Tefko Saracevic; and "Project Ethnography: An Anthropological Approach," by Michael Seadle.

The emphasis here is on assessment of digital library services; nevertheless, some articles focus on specific projects (e.g., Borgman et al., Carter and Janes, Marchionini, Seadle) while

others furnish generalized models and methodologies (Greenstein, Peters, Saracevic). Gorman et al.'s interesting article examines how "bundle building," developing highly focused, well-organized minicollections for specific purposes, aids problem-solving. The articles are well written and include references and some illustrations. The issue offers a good balance of principles and practice on a topic that is often given less attention than it deserves.

What kind of body of literature do these eight items represent? First, there is less overlap than this reviewer anticipated, although there is some. Several require paying high prices for small amounts of content, but the fact is even the most costly item in terms of price-per-page includes important authors' writing on topics librarians should read about. Each offers a knowledgeable foray into an enormous topical area. Even where there is overlap, the approaches and treatments of different authors vary widely. For example, the chapter on cataloging by Fair et al. in *Managing Electronic Serials* couldn't be more different than its counterpart in *Selecting and Managing Electronic Resources*, in which Gregory lays out the possibilities, from no cataloging at all to providing full MARC records for each electronic item collected. Fair et al., after a quick obeisance to Cutter's "Objects," explain how to catalog electronic serials, giving field-by-field instructions.

The prices of these eight books vary widely, from \$18.50 for Nisonger's 300-plus-page *Library Trends* issue to \$55 for Gregory's monograph of slightly more than one hundred pages. Clearly, the length of an item does not govern its price, nor does the pricing appear to depend on monographic versus serial publication. For all the collection developers' complaints about price gouging by serial publishers and the outrageous prices of subscriptions, an \$85 subscription to

*Library Trends* offers the best value based on the amount of material on the subject of electronic resources.

Are these the best books available on the topics they cover? Yes and no. Yes, because they are excellent books, and no amount of quibbling over individual chapters or publication formats in any one of them diminishes that. No, because other books cover the individual subtopics contained within them in greater detail—for example, if one wants to read about cataloging Internet resources, several excellent manuals give better and more thorough instruction, and *The Journal of Internet Cataloging* offers generalized discussions of problems in each issue. But if one wants only to read a well-written overview of cataloging issues or the kind of instruction one can absorb in under an hour, these can meet one's need. What one discovers, however, is that Gregory does not give even a smattering of instruction in how to catalog an Internet journal despite its calling itself a "how-to" while Fair et al. do almost nothing to look at overall organizational issues despite the presence of their chapter on cataloging in a "theory plus practice" volume. So, a careful reader still needs to pay attention not only to the topic or subtopic being covered, but also how it is treated by its author. All of these eight books have good content, important authors, and authoritative publishers, however some offer more than others. Nisonger's *Library Trends* issue is the most "bang for the buck," and its subject—selection—is a critical need for librarians seeking to learn more about collecting electronic resources. Similarly, evaluation of those resources—Peters' subject—is sorely needed in the real world. Those two should get high priority on everyone's professional reading list.

The best introductory treatment of electronic resources is *Managing Electronic Serials*, edited by Pamela M. Bluh. It is not geared toward specific activities, but it is eminently read-

able, with topics treated in depth. Its multiauthor format is an advantage in furnishing a wide range of opinions on a great variety of topics, which single or joint authors writing on focused topics are hard-pressed to match. For practical help in beginning the acquisition of electronic resources, *Selecting and Managing Electronic Resources*, by Gregory, and *Developing and Managing Electronic Journal Collections*, by Curtis et al., are the best choices. If you can buy or read

only one, then Curtis et al. is this reviewer's preference. While Gregory is more generic, and Curtis is confined to journals, the latter covers its topics a little more fully. Harum and Twidale's, Lee's, and McGinnis's books are good if they cover a topic in which readers have specific interest, for example, interdisciplinary studies (McGinnis), scenario planning (Lee), or the Digital Libraries Initiative (Harum and Twidale). Having said this, a caution is in order: In the rapidly evolving area

of electronic publications and digital libraries, none of this content is truly current; the material in these eight books should be seen as contributing to readers' background and general knowledge. Printed books do not reveal late-breaking developments.—*Sheila S. Intner (intner@simmons.edu), Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Boston, Massachusetts, and GSLIS at Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts.*