

and special libraries. The editor and contributors are careful to discuss techniques, best practices, and types of available tools without endorsing or delving too deeply into the nuances of specific systems used to manage e-resources—a wise decision considering the pace at which the e-resource landscape evolves. Writing a guide to managing e-resources that will remain relevant for longer than six weeks after publication is no easy feat; distinguishing underlying theories from coping mechanisms can be complicated. Weir and the contributing chapter authors have managed to do just this. The examples used in this guide and the practices they illustrate form a solid e-resource management text whose value will persist for years to come. —*Betsy Appleton (eapplet1@gmu.edu), George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia*

Fundamentals of Managing Reference Collections. By Carol A. Singer. Chicago: ALA, 2012. 167 p. \$60 paperback (ISBN: 978-0-8389-1153-2). ALA Fundamentals Series.

This book is part of the ALA Fundamentals Series and may serve as a targeted supplement to more general collection development works. Since most libraries still have print reference collections and librarians are struggling to integrate electronic titles with existing print collections, the topics covered in this guide will be relevant to many practitioners. Singer herself says that the reference stacks are full of useful resources, but admits to rarely consulting them. She then posits that a leaner print collection might gain more use. Her information on maintaining reference collections covers not only strategies for taming the physical reference collection, but also suggestions for incorporating virtual materials into that reference collection and the additional challenges of managing electronic resources.

Singer divides her work into nine chapters: “Reference Collection

Fundamentals”; “Reference Collection Development Policies”; “Staffing Models for Reference Collection Management”; “Selecting Reference Materials”; “Acquisitions, Budgets, and Licenses”; “Collection Maintenance”; “Weeding the Reference Collection”; “Reference Collection Development and Consortia”; “Discovery and Access”; and a “Collection Development Policy Template” in an appendix.

Singer begins with some definitions of reference works and continues her discussion with the electronic aspect of reference collections. She then describes the relationship between print and electronic materials, and compares these two types of resources. Singer also considers how to define boundaries for both print and electronic collections. In the next chapter, Singer provides a rationale for a separate reference collection development policy, as well as a very thorough discussion of each of the desirable components of such a policy. The chapter on staffing applies only to larger libraries but clearly delineates centralized and decentralized models for managing reference collections. Singer also provides lists of advantages and disadvantages for both models.

The next topic is selection. Singer discusses some of the tools available to assist with selection and general criteria for choosing resources. She follows this introduction with specific selection criteria for different types of reference materials: online, aggregated reference book databases, freely available Internet resources, print monographs, and print serials.

In the following chapter, Singer provides a broad overview of the acquisitions process, including approval plans. With the exception of a reference to typing paper order forms, the workflows Singer outlines are fairly standard. She continues with a general discussion of various models for reference collection budgets. Singer then briefly covers some of the major components of licenses.

In the next chapter, the focus is on collection maintenance. Singer discusses potential workflows when new electronic resources are added (testing, branding, cataloging, etc.) as well as some of the ongoing challenges posed by collections of electronic resources, such as changing URLs and dropped content. When dealing with new additions to the print reference collection, older editions may need to be pulled or shifting may be necessary to accommodate new materials. Ongoing print collection maintenance may range from repairs and rebinding to inventory. Another facet of maintenance is marketing, both to library staff and library patrons. Singer advises that one should periodically attempt to examine the reference collection with fresh eyes to assess its adequacy.

Singer then tackles the sometimes dreaded topic of weeding. She delineates a number of the reasons offered for not weeding and counters with reasons why weeding is necessary. Singer then discusses some typical criteria for weeding, along with caveats about applying any single criterion as a hard and fast rule. Singer outlines two basic methods for weeding. The first strategy is to conduct a one-time major project with an established timeframe. The alternative is to organize an ongoing or continuous review of the collection without a firm deadline. She then reviews the pros and cons of each option. She provides a section covering the review of reference serials and another on weeding reference books in off-site storage, which is an issue primarily for larger libraries. The lingering question about the utility of off-site storage materials for reference tools is not addressed. Singer then discusses review of reference e-books and reference databases. She closes with some final tips for reluctant weeders.

In the next chapter, Singer discusses the role of consortia in building electronic reference collections. She notes budget implications ranging from potential savings to ongoing

fiscal commitments. Singer includes a review of consortial advantages and disadvantages in terms of the reference collection, including a certain lack of local control over selection. In her final chapter, Singer examines the importance of discovery and access for reference collections, while also noting related challenges, especially with regard to electronic resources. Discovery tools are posited as a potential solution to some of the access issues and a possible bridge between print and electronic collections, but Singer argues that these tools are too new to be able to evaluate their utility thoroughly now. In the appendix, Singer offers a very detailed template for a reference collection development policy.

Throughout the book, Singer provides many useful checklists of criteria to consider plus many lists of pros and cons, which help frame topics for the reader. Each chapter includes bibliographic references and suggestions for further reading.

This book provides a good introduction to the many aspects of reference collection management. It is perhaps most useful for academic libraries, but the concepts are applicable to all library reference collections.—*Karen Greever (greeverk@kenyon.edu), Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio*

Open Access. By Peter Suber. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2012. 242 p. \$13 paperback. (ISBN: 978-0-262-51763-8).

The Internet and web have changed the way we consume information, be it for personal or academic use. Over the last decade, publishers of academic journals have been making the migration from print to online distribution. Meanwhile, many academics and others involved in the scholarly publishing industry have seen the potential of the web to widely disseminate information. Currently there are barriers to accessing much of the academic

material that is available on the web because it is owned and operated by for-profit, or toll access, publishers. To break down these barriers, academic institutions, libraries, nonprofit organizations, and authors are looking more to the open access (OA) movement, which encourages providing freely available research to anyone with a computer and an Internet connection.

Many librarians and academics have a general idea of what OA means, but have not really delved into the specifics of how it works. In *Open Access*, Peter Suber explains the ins and outs of the OA movement, in a quick and efficient way, to inform the busy researcher. The first chapter of the book, “What is Open Access?” succinctly explains each type of OA, from the difference between Gold OA (academic articles in an open access journals) and Green OA (academic articles housed individually in institutional repositories or digital collections), to the difference between Gratis OA (“access that is free of charge but not free of copyright and licensing restrictions” (175)) and Libre OA (access that is free of charge and most copyright restrictions). Suber also provides a glossary of commonly used OA terms.

In the first chapter Suber explains “what” OA is, and he dedicates the second chapter to explaining the “why.” In this chapter, titled “Motivation,” Suber lists the reasons why academic researchers and academic institutions should be interested in publishing in and supporting OA initiatives, including the exponentially increasing costs of commercial journals, gaps in access at even the most well-funded institutions, and usage restrictions placed on journals by publishers.

In the next four chapters of the book, Suber focuses on the “how” of OA. In a chapter titled “Varieties,” he describes in more detail the differences between Green and Gold OA, Gratis and Libres OA, and how these different models may be intermingled. He also touches on how journals and

institutional repositories achieve Gold or Green status. In a chapter titled “Policies,” he explains the emergence of OA mandates by academic institutions and funding agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health. These mandates, pioneered at many of the country’s most prestigious universities and research organizations, strongly encourage, or in some cases, require faculty to publish finished works in the organization’s repository, thus providing Green OA availability. This chapter also explains why mandates for Gold OA, requiring researchers to publish only in OA journals, would severely restrict the publishing possibilities for researchers because “only 25 percent of peer reviewed journals are OA” (91). The chapter titled “Scope” lays out the different kinds of materials that could be considered for OA publishing. The author points out that although the OA movement has been championed by the scientific community, it does not mean researchers from other disciplines or creators of materials other than research articles should be excluded from publishing their work within the OA framework. This chapter briefly explains how materials outside of academic articles, including theses and dissertations, research data, government data, source code, scholarly monographs, textbooks, creative works, newspapers, images, and other unique materials, would benefit from OA publishing. He touches on the readers, aside from traditional researchers, who will benefit from these materials being openly available, including lay readers and even machines utilizing opening access software.

The last chapter in this section, titled “Copyright,” explains concisely how copyright works when an author publishes in an OA journal: “Either the author retains the key rights and the publisher obtains the author’s permission, or the author transfers the key rights to the publisher and the publisher uses them to authorized Open Access” (125). The chapter also