linking system; and the economic dangers of moving from an unlimited use, print-based model, to recurring, license-based fee structures. That the most enduring of these discussions consist principally of warnings seems to point out that there are still a number of basic problems dating from the inception of the digital library yet to be solved.

Perhaps the most developed and still relevant theme that crosses multiple essays relates to the changing nature of scholarly communication and intellectual property rights. A number of essays mention the promise of the Internet to provide open access to scholarly material and predict the rise of preprint and institutional repositories. Some of these essays also point out the problems that are faced when attempting to apply print-based copyright law to digital material, where the line between content and process is often blurred.

Following two sections of essays focusing principally on predictions and emerging patterns in the digital library realm, the collection concludes with a number of papers focusing on emerging and successful projects, such as the Internet Public Library, distance learning initiatives, and digital collections of government documents. Although interesting as historical documents, as a whole these papers have little other value today, as they simply describe projects that have either been completed or superseded, or that have progressed well beyond their state at time of presentation.

When taken as a whole, this collection clearly demonstrates the value of the Kanazawa Institute of Technology’s series of International Roundtables as a forward-thinking gathering of pioneers in the digital library world. That many of these essays remain at least somewhat relevant is truly an accomplishment. That said, the value of this work is hindered by its overall lack of timeliness and the fact that many of these authors have gone on to reprise and refine their views of the still-developing digital library.—James M Jackson Sanborn (james_sanborn@ncsu.edu), North Carolina State University Libraries, Raleigh.


The first work of such specific focus since Alfred W. Pollard’s 1891 Last Words on the History of the Title Page, Margaret M. Smith’s brief monograph sets out to take a new look at its subject from the post-Elisabeth Eisenstein field of book history. In addition to being something of an update of its centenarian predecessor, Smith’s work complements other studies, fitting neatly from a chronological standpoint between Pollard’s An Essay on Colophons (1905) and works covering later periods, including A. F. Johnson’s German Renaissance Title-borders (1929) and M. Corbett and R.W. Lightbown’s The Comely Frontispiece 1979. Unlike especially this last work and the more recent Chronus und Historia (1995) by Margery Kintzinger, which take more iconographic approaches, Smith smartly appears to be more concerned with establishing organic genres of title-page design. One should begin reading this book with the very brief final chapter, titled “Conclusions,” but truly more of an abstract. Here, Smith most clearly summarizes the current picture of the title-page’s evolution, a story of competing styles, false starts, and a finally dominant form. In fact, non-inmunabilists may wish to stop reading here, as Smith’s work follows in the intellectual tradition of The Printing Press As an Agent of Change but lacks its eye-opening freshness. The strength of the earlier chapters comes in textual and graphic presentations, in chronological perspective, of the fruitful results of Smith’s quantitative sampling (although, oddly, Smith avoids address-

ing geographical factors in such strong fashion, leaving open questions of how significant were regional differences in the title-page’s early development). While overall this new work doesn’t offer much in the way of new insights, it does provide an important and long-neglected evidentiary foundation that supports many commonly held ideas of the title-page’s development.—Darby Orcutt (darby_orcutt@ncsu.edu), North Carolina State University Libraries, Raleigh.


The first through fifth editions of the classic Introduction to Technical Services were titled Introduction to Technical Services for Library Technicians. The change in title reflects the changing need for training in technical services, even for the professional librarian. Schools of library (or information) science are minimally training their students in cataloging (and that even is not a required course for most) and might touch on other aspects of technical services generically. But, for the most part, there appears to be a misconception that knowledge of processing, acquiring, and organizing materials is either no longer necessary or can be picked up on the job. As readers of Library Resources & Technical Services are well aware, the skills are necessary, and there are rarely staff left who can pass on the knowledge through in-service training. Introduction to Technical Services can fill this gap. It can also be used as a textbook for either master’s-level