itization under fair use in some circumstances an acceptable risk.

Part two of the book is titled “Digitizing Collections.” Chapter six, “Project Planning and Funding,” provides a comprehensive overview of issues to consider when first developing a proposal for a digitization project. This chapter contains useful practical advice on funding models and distribution of costs within project areas. Chapter seven, “Managing a Digitization Project,” presents an excellent top-down view of decision making. There is a clear and appropriate message that managers should first answer “Why?” before attempting to answer “How?,” an approach evident in statements such as: “Articulating the purposes of the project, and the way that the digital imaging processes chosen will create resources that will fulfill these goals, is the best way to plan a digitization project . . .” (165).

The remaining chapters in part two cover digitization of three specific types of materials: rare and fragile materials, audio and moving images, and text and images. These chapters are less effective than the rest of the book. The author attempts to address digitization of these three categories of materials in depth. However, it is not appropriate for the scope and audience of this book to discuss technical details of digital capture, and the result is oversimplification of the issues, often leading to incorrect generalizations. For example, Hughes claims that GIF “is a proprietary file format, covered by a patent” (190). It is not the GIF file format itself that is patented, but rather the compression algorithm it uses, LZW. This compression algorithm can be used with other file formats, including TIFF. In addition, this patent expired in the United States in July 2003 and in many other countries in summer 2004. Unfortunately, this sort of slight misrepresentation occurs frequently in technical discussions within these three chapters.

The relationship of digitization and preservation activities appears in several places throughout the book. The author makes clear her position on this relationship: “Although there are those who maintain that digitization is gaining recognition as an acceptable preservation format, this is not the opinion of this author” (210). Two distinct issues are relevant to the debate regarding digitization as a preservation medium. The first is whether or not the digitized object (image, audio, video) adequately captures all important information (by some operational definition) present in the original object. The second issue is whether or not we can ensure today mechanisms for managing digital data into the future with certainty comparable to that we currently possess for analog materials. The basics of the latter are introduced in a section titled “Preservation of Digital Assets.” The former is discussed only in passing within a section outlining a case study on brittle books digitization, never in the context of any other type of material. The relationship between these two concerns and their impact on the digitization as preservation debate is never made clear. A recent Association of Research Libraries report, Recognizing Digitization as a Preservation Reformattting Method, attempts to address these very topics.5

Digitizing Collections closes with a chapter devoted once again to big-picture issues, synthesizing the lessons of previous chapters into a cohesive view of digital project planning. As Hughes reminds us, “We shouldn’t digitize just because we can” (285). A manager ought to come away from this book with the tools to effectively determine when an institution should choose to digitize.—Jenn Riley (jenrile@indiana.edu), Indiana University Digital Library Program, Bloomington

References


Brief Reviews


Development of Digital Libraries comprises a collection of twenty-two papers presented at the Kanazawa Institute of Technology International Roundtable during the years 1994 to 1998. With the most recent of these papers dating to six years ago, and some a full decade old, the value of this volume is clearly not in discussion of current trends. Rather, this volume provides an interesting snapshot of digital library thought from a time when the Web was passing through its infancy and into a period of unrivaled growth and expectation.

A number of themes emerge across these essays; perhaps the most common of these is that of the changing role of the library and librarians. Understandably, some of the papers predict changes that have not yet come to pass and may now appear unlikely. Examples include overstating the promise of digitization to solve shelving space needs and the ability of collection developers to effectively select and maintain links to authoritative items from throughout the Web in anticipation of user needs. Other trends and predictions, however, seem as relevant today as they were when presented: the need for sound digital preservation standards and practices; the inherent instability in the Web’s
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 centenary 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-cunabulists 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 addressing 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