

by commenting on article and presentation drafts. Through these and myriad other activities, mentoring occurs regularly in the library. As Lee states, "There is never a mentoring project too small" (98). With this in mind and this book in hand, librarians everywhere now know where to start.—*John E. Adkins (johnadkins@ucwv.edu), University of Charleston, Charleston, West Virginia.*

Reference

1. Max De Pree and Walter C. Wright, *Mentoring: Two Voices* (Pasadena, Calif.: De Pree Leadership Center, 2003).

Human Information Retrieval. By Julian Warner. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2010. 189p. \$35 hardcover (ISBN 978-0-2620-1344-4).

The book starts with Julian Warner's declaration, "Information retrieval (IR) is of high contemporary significance, diffusing into ordinary discourse and everyday practice" (1). As a field, IR is concerned with the structured analysis, organization, storage, searching, and retrieval of information.¹ Emphasizing that we are faced with, and inevitably navigating in, an advanced, complex, differentially understood, and apparently chaotic arena fueled by information technologies, this nine-chapter volume provides a foundation on which to understand IR from a theoretical perspective. The author suggests that IR is constructed from labor, choice, and technology and is rooted in human experience. He aims to offer an inclusive understanding of IR systems through a labor-theoretic approach.

Reviewing existing evaluative traditions and indicating the possibility for synthesis within a labor-theoretic approach, the book assumes selection power as a quality of human consciousness. Selection power is produced by selection labor, a form of mental (informational) labor. According to Warner, selection labor

comprises two processes: description labor and search labor. The former, an interpretive labor, is exemplified by cataloging, classification, and database description, which transform objects into searchable descriptions. The latter occurs when information systems are searched.

The centerpiece of the book is its fourth chapter titled "A Labor Theoretic Approach," within which operating and realizing human selection power with respect to the real world is debated. Related issues, like retrieval from full text on the basis of semantic as well as syntactical foundations, are discussed, as are practical considerations for redesigning Internet search tools with a humanistic approach. The book's concluding chapter reviews semantics and syntax in relation to preexisting theories relevant to IR, labor-theory approach, and existing and emerging real-world practices. The book includes a postscript, bibliography, list of supplemental readings, and index. Also helpful is the diagram on page 13, which delineates the book's structure, illustrating the topics that relate to Warner's labor theoretic approach.

The goal of the book is to enrich, promote, and advance IR research in the fields of information science and computer science. Warner's concluding remarks suggest that every design in the field of IR should serve end users with simplicity, interoperability, and cost-effectiveness. It is hoped that such a humanistic approach can facilitate improving the interactive quality of IR systems.

Although this theoretical, scholarly, and inspiring work that balances practical and theoretical aspects of human IR is at times difficult to understand, its depth, value, and originality should not be neglected. It will be more interesting, erudite, instructive, and comprehensible for patient readers, be they students, professors, systems librarians, systems designers and optimizers, or researchers familiar

with the IR field. I would have appreciated more attention given to the role of human behavior as it pertains to IR, especially given the book's title. Nevertheless, *Human Information Retrieval* is a useful contribution to the IR literature.—*Alireza Isfandyari-Moghaddam (ali.isfandyari@gmail.com), Hamedan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Iran.*

Reference

1. Gerard Salton, *Automatic Information Organization and Retrieval* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1968).

Patron-Driven Acquisitions: History and Best Practices. Edited by David A. Swords. Berlin; Boston, Mass.: De Gruyter Saur, 2011. 205p. \$105 (ISBN: 978-3-1102-5301-6; eISBN: 978-3-1102-5303-0). Current Topics in Library and Information Practice.

Many libraries, large and small, are experimenting with patron-driven acquisitions (PDA) of e-books. Although numerous journal articles have been published recently on this topic, this is the first book devoted to PDA that I have seen. Edited by David Swords, vice president of sales and marketing for Ebook Library (EBL), *Patron-Driven Acquisitions* does have a slant toward EBL's service model, but do not let this prevent you from reading it. Swords has assembled an impressive cast of contributors, including Rick Lugg, Bob Nardini, Michael Levine-Clark, Kari Paulson, Rex Steiner, Ron Berry, Tom Corbett, Sue Polanka, Emilie Delquie, Doug Way, Julie Garrison, and Dennis Dillon. Swords also contributes two chapters to the volume.

The chapters, though logically organized, at times read like a set of essays rather than a cohesive monograph; this is no doubt due to the plethora of contributors. The book has three main sections—"Background and Reasons," "PDA in the World," and "Modeling PDA"—and concludes

with a philosophical chapter by Dillon on current and future trends. The book is thought-provoking and provides a lot of practical information for libraries considering PDA. If your library has not yet delved into demand-driven acquisitions, the chapters by Dillon and Lugg will convince you that you cannot afford not to try it. If you are a publisher, Swords's chapter, "PDA and Publishers," will convince you to offer it as a service.

In the first chapter, "Collecting for the Moment: Patron-Driven Acquisitions as a Disruptive Technology," Lugg discusses the rise of the web and users' preference for digital resources. The popularity of digital resources changes what libraries and librarians do, especially regarding collection management. Although Lugg states PDA "eliminates the temptation and the need to buy speculatively" (11), he explains that librarian expertise remains an important element of PDA programs. This opening chapter provides a strong introduction to PDA and lays a foundation for the book. The next chapter, Nardini's "Approval Plans and Patron Selection: Two Infrastructures," discusses the continued usefulness of approval plans, a chapter that seems off-topic for the book. The final contribution in this section, authored by Levine-Clark, describes the University of Denver's experiences with a variety of PDA models.

The second section starts with a chapter by Paulson who recounts EBL's early partnerships with libraries and the process of persuading publishers to make their books available electronically. The chapter also describes the various PDA models trialed, such as renting, buying, and short-term loans. Two subsequent chapters describe unique PDA experiences that likely will not apply to many libraries, but are nonetheless interesting. Steiner and Berry's chapter describes building library collections from scratch in Abu Dhabi and Azerbaijan, and how useful PDA would have been

had it been available at the time. The authors state how PDA "gives the international librarian the ability to gain access to huge numbers of electronic resources at minimal economic risk" (92). Although Corbett's chapter, which recounts the PDA experience in a private boarding school, may not be applicable to most school libraries, the author makes the very relevant point that there is a need for more appropriate e-book content for high school students. In the final chapter in this section, "PDA and Publishers," Swords begins by apologizing for not being able to find a publisher willing to write the chapter. In its stead, he constructs the chapter around a conversation he had with Mike Shatzkin, a consultant and owner of the Idea Logical Company. Swords states early on that the "main audience for this chapter is publishers, at best those who so far have rejected, discounted, or feared PDA" (107). Despite the downside of not having a publisher author this chapter, I found it especially interesting and enlightening from my librarian perspective. Although PDA is scary for publishers because of its unpredictable nature, Swords lays out many benefits, including increased book citations and revenue. He also spells out the danger for publishers who fail to participate in PDA programs.

The final section provides a solid foundation on which to understand, implement, and manage a PDA program, financially and otherwise. Polanka and Delquie's "Patron-Driven Business Models: History, Today's Landscape, and Opportunities" examines the evolution of PDA models, and offer detailed descriptions of aggregator and publisher platforms. They provide a useful comparison chart that outlines the benefits and challenges of the various models. The subsequent chapter, written by Way and Garrison, addresses implications of PDA, examines the value of short-term loans, and includes a very thorough literature review. Dillon's chapter discusses

how to control costs in a large-scale PDA program. Swords's "Elements of a Demand-Driven Model," which completes the section, addresses "how PDA thinking is different from past thinking, what does a PDA system require to be workable, and how do you budget for it" (169). At times the text in this chapter is dense, especially when Swords writes about building and budgeting for a PDA program. The upside, however, is that Swords's advice can be used to predict spending within a few percentage points, which removes much of the financial risk inherent to PDA.

With vision and candor, Dillon concludes the book arguing that PDA could facilitate libraries' relevance in a consumer-driven environment by allowing librarians to become professional content managers. Freed from making title-by-title decisions, librarians can instead use their expertise to improve "access, discovery, and the library's relevancy" (192). Dillon goes on to state that PDA should be regarded as a new tool for librarians rather than a threat, since "individual readers know what is in their own interest better than librarians do" (193).

This book will appeal to a broad array of publishers and librarians, no matter where one is along the PDA spectrum. Library and information science programs, in particular, will find value in this book, which Swords ties together well. Despite the EBL slant, this monograph is an excellent addition to the literature on patron-driven acquisitions and, fittingly, is available via PDA.—Karen Fischer (*karen-fischer@uiowa.edu*), University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Preparing Collections for Digitization. By Anna E. Bülow and Jess Ahmon. London: Facet, 2011. 192p. \$99.95 softcover (ISBN 978-1-8560-4711-1).

Preparing Collections for Digitization accomplishes what it sets out to do: instruct collection managers in