

perhaps most helpfully, identifies common issues in e-book use in academic libraries. Some of these issues include what to do when a patron requests a print version of an e-book, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, DRM issues, and interlibrary loan. Two areas not discussed that would be appropriate here are e-book weeding and the entry of university presses into the e-book market.

Chapters 2 through 5 focus on e-books by type of library; chapters 7–9 address the nuts and bolts of e-book issues, such as acquisition, use, preservation, and standards. These chapters expand on content mentioned in less detail in the early chapters, and those staff involved in any aspect of e-book acquisition will benefit. Vendors make e-book acquisition easy; much more complicated are the myriad platforms, restrictions, access models, and device compatibility issues that librarians must understand to make e-books accessible to patrons. Polanka and contributor Emilie Delquíé cite Petway's barrier of thirty: "There are nearly thirty devices on the market (and counting), and there are thirty formats for e-book content, many of which are proprietary" (136). They follow with an alphabet soup of e-book-related acronyms (XML, ILL, DOI, ISBN EBUB, DRM, and SERU) that should be required study for all librarians.

Highly readable, this book is primer for libraries entering the e-book market, a cautionary tale for those who are wading in, and a bird's eye view for those whom e-books are business as usual.—Cathy Goodwin (*cgoodwin@coastal.edu*), *Coastal Carolina University, Conway, South Carolina*

***Metadata for Digital Collections: A How-to-Do-It Manual.*** By Steven J. Miller. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2011. 343p. \$78.00 softcover (ISBN 978-1-5557-0746-0). How-to-Do-It Manuals.

The rapidly developing digital library environment continues to

present many challenges, not only to those who are just beginning to dabble in digital library initiatives, but also to those with experience. *Metadata for Digital Collections* is an excellent addition to the growing literature addressing this topic. The author, Steven Miller, is an experienced cataloger and cataloging department manager. This experience, combined with his position teaching courses in metadata, cataloging, and information architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Information Studies, makes him ideally suited to address the development and application of metadata to digital collections.

*Metadata for Digital Collections* is organized into eleven chapters that cover all aspects of creating metadata in a digital library setting. The first chapter begins with the basics: defining metadata, describing types of metadata applied to digital collections, and introducing the reader to metadata standards. Several definitions of metadata are provided and, taken together, they illustrate for the reader how diverse our understanding of metadata can be. Chapter 2 discusses the foundations of resource description, and because of its ubiquity, introduces the Dublin Core (DC) metadata element set. Although prior cataloging knowledge would help the reader put resource description into the context of library databases, prior cataloging experience is not necessary to understand the introductory concepts presented in this chapter.

Chapters 3 and 4 continue the approach of addressing metadata concepts through the application of the DC standard. Chapter 3 explores how resources are identified and how responsibility for creation, contribution, and publication is assigned. Each topic, such as title, identifier, dates, etc., is addressed in a general section, followed by a section devoted to the same topic as defined by DC. Chapter 4 addresses how subject, form, and genre are handled for digital

materials. Again, each topic, such as type, genre, and format, is discussed broadly, followed by a description of how that topic is handled in DC.

Chapter 5 makes the case that controlled vocabularies are a crucial aspect of resource description. The role of controlled vocabulary in disambiguation and establishing hierarchical relationships is explained. Many types of controlled vocabulary are discussed, including lists, synonym rings, authority files, taxonomies, and thesauri. The concept of creating a specialized vocabulary is not neglected—references to the American National Standards Institute/National Information Standards Organization (ANSI/NISO) guidelines on creating controlled vocabularies are included.

Metadata created according to a variety of standards, such as DC, Visual Resource Association (VRA) Core, or Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS), can be encoded for storage and transmission using XML. Chapter 6 is devoted to a basic introduction of how the XML encoding standard can be used effectively to store and transmit data. Chapters 7 and 8 address the MODS and VRA Core categories. These chapters are filled with useful examples of MODS and VRA Core records encoded in XML.

Chapter 9 addresses metadata interoperability, sharing, and quality—critical issues in ensuring the long-term viability of metadata created for digital resources. The chapter concludes with suggestions for ways to improve metadata interoperability and quality, such as using DC or another standard element set; including an appropriate amount of contextual information and access points; entering data values that are machine-readable and linkable; distinguishing administrative metadata from descriptive; and documenting local practices. These suggestions are standard practices in traditional cataloging policies and procedures, but have yet to be

carried over to the digital realm in a consistent way.

Despite the many metadata schemes already developed and standardized, there are still instances when it is desirable to create a specialized metadata scheme. The steps in developing a metadata scheme are thoroughly outlined in chapter 10. Examples of such schemes also are provided, including DC metadata documentation from the Collaborative Digitization Program, OhioLINK, and Indiana Memory, and MODS documentation from the Digital Library Federation's Aquifer project. These examples are invaluable resources for anyone trying to develop their own documentation.

The final chapter is devoted to a discussion of linked data and the Semantic Web. Although as yet one sees few practical applications of linked data, monitoring concepts and development in this emerging field is important.

In addition to the extensive references at the end of each chapter, a robust bibliography and an index appear at the end of the book. The book is generously illustrated with more than one hundred figures and tables. Sidebars illustrating concepts, clarifying definitions, and providing examples are present throughout. The book is clearly written and accessible to students learning about metadata for the first time, but also rich enough to be useful for the experienced practitioner.

*Metadata for Digital Collections* is well suited for both practicing professionals and students. It provides an excellent grounding in all aspects of applying metadata in a digital library setting and would be a useful addition to any professional library. It also would be appropriate for use in a library or information science course for students who are learning about the organization of information. —Rebecca L. Mugridge (rlm31@psu.edu), Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

***Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries and Archives: Essays on Readers, Research, History, and Cataloging.*** Edited by Robert G. Weiner. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2010. 276p. \$45.00 paper (ISBN 978-0-7864-4302-4).

This new collection, which details the current state of comics in libraries, deserves attention. Its chapters cover diverse ground, its writers exude earnestness and enthusiasm, and its research is seminal yet exploratory. Amid the proliferation of introductory and reader's advisory guides and works on comics for literacy and instruction, the present volume is one of just a handful to address comics and librarianship more broadly, with twenty-nine individually authored chapters covering most facets of library work. Editor Robert G. Weiner (Texas Tech University) is no newcomer to the subject matter, having written considerably on it in addition to having worked with comics in both public and academic library settings.

Readers will wish to explore these essays selectively, choosing those that align with their own contexts and interests. *Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries and Archives* is certainly not a book to read cover to cover, as its redundancies will appear overwhelming (including nearly two dozen only slightly different takes on the terminology of "graphic novels" versus "comics"). In addition, some chapters seem aimed at novices whereas others at librarians with considerable background knowledge.

Part I offers chapters on the history of comics in libraries. Although the first chapter's basic primer and idiosyncratic annotated list offers nothing new, the second chapter provides a full history of Manga in Japanese libraries, an overview for which English readers will be thankful. Amy Kiste Nyberg's "How Librarians Learned to Love the Graphic Novel" employs a literature review construct to neatly summarize the history of U.S. librarian attitudes

and activities with regard to comics.

The next four parts discuss comics and graphic novels in particular types of libraries, with seven chapters focused on academic libraries, three on public libraries, two on school libraries (elementary and high school levels), and one on Pennsylvania-related comics in the archival collection of the State Library of Pennsylvania. Some common themes resonate throughout many of these essays, especially issues related to selection, cataloging, and methods of physical placement of graphic novels. Readers often will find differing solutions to similar problems in this volume, affirming the value of local context in one's own decision-making. Yet readers also will note the emergence of some best practices, a profitable thread for subsequent research in this field.

The much larger section on academic library contexts opens with an overview of graphic novels as popular culture collections, offering tips for faculty buy-in, selection, funding, cataloging, and preservation. More focused chapters discuss course reserves, selection, public relations, and special collections. Especially in these chapters, the reader finds the common apologetic tone regarding comics in libraries alongside numerous real-life examples of the use of comics within the disciplines. Gwen Evans's contribution, "The Library after Dark," gives extended treatment of Bowling Green State University's student-librarian partnership to create a comic book to promote library collections and services, one of several such innovative productions that has excited the library science blogosphere recently. Many readers will turn first to the two chapters on the comic art collection at the Michigan State University (MSU) Libraries, which feature its bibliographer, Randy Scott. In the first article, Scott provides an overview of the collection; the second article is an interview with Scott. MSU's collection is arguably the most significant in