into arbitration with a vendor. Third, he delves into detail about disclaimers and warranties infecting every IT and library contract ever devised, but only reluctantly concedes that these are simply standard and effectively nonnegotiable. But just when Lipinski flirts with nudging his readers’ attention span out of focus, he snaps “the licensor . . . [should warrant] that it has valid title to the content” being offered (496). An experienced library negotiator is not likely to overlook that caution, but the reminder is compelling. If nothing else, all parties to a contract have to be reassured that a third party will not emerge to claim infringement and sue library and publisher alike.

To be sure, Lipinski is not concerned with the non-IP details of licensing. These matters are attended to in other venues, beginning with The Charleston Advisor (www.charlestonco.com). A more historically influenced reading of licensing might have led him to focus less on coursepack restrictions, which recent trends in e-reserve concessions by licensors have mostly settled to the benefit of libraries. He does fret a great deal about some specific matters that get librarians equally fretful, but for different reasons. In dissecting Nature Publishing Group’s (NPG) standard license, he objects that the chargeable users clause, which in turn depends on counting the number of “scientific department” students and staff, is rigged to trigger pricing adjustments always favoring NPG (599). True enough. But librarians are as likely to object that in the age of the comprehensive, inter-disciplinary university, the number of folks characterized as scientific department affiliates is so permeable as to be meaningless, and wish for some simple metric such as institutional enrolled FTE to be substituted. And there are some interesting omissions. He is silent on consortial licensing, which includes potentially tricky recitals and can complicate archiving provisions. While he resists offering a model license on the reasonable grounds that cases vary so greatly (635), such a claim undermines the purpose of his project, which is to bring all those variants into greater and uniform clarity. Even accounting for his distrust of model licenses and apparent indifference to consortia, surely the library-rights friendly license suggested by the NorthEast Research Libraries (NERL) is worth examination. And why not mention the Shared E-Resource Understanding (SERU) project of the National Information Standards Organizations (NISO), which intriguingly if quixotically seeks to return to old-fashioned sale and copyright regimes?

Lipinski’s tome offers many practical features. He concludes most chapters with useful “learning examples” in which license terms—sometimes in the nature of apples to apples, sometimes apples to oranges—are juxtaposed and analyzed. An exhaustive glossary of licensing terms serves as more of an encyclopedia than dictionary, and despite his aversion to model licenses he does propose “twenty key clauses” (635–644) that will reward repeated consultation.

Perhaps because of the density of legal English and its estimable sweep, Lipinski’s bottom-line is somewhat elusive. Reserved though he is about expressing bias toward his subject, there is no doubt he stands with libraries at every turn: “Restrictions on uses that under the copyright law would be lawful should not be prohibited; obligations which are impossible or nearly impossible to perform or which require monitoring or enforcing restrictions upon users should not be required” (673).

Those are prosaic words about an occasionally turgid topic, but with them Lipinski stakes out the advocacy position librarians ought to adopt in meeting their obligations to distribute and preserve original works of human understanding.—Scott Silverman (silvermanscottth@gmail.com), Dresden, Maine


This concise volume is part of the Chandos Information Professional Series, which aims to provide both readable and practical coverage of subjects of interest to librarians. It is not, as its title may suggest, a how-to guide for managing electronic resources, but rather a broad overview of how electronic resource management has evolved in a specific type of library over the last two decades with some learned speculation about what the future might hold. Or, as Elguindi and Schmidt neatly phrase it in their preface, “How have academic librarians and librarians changed to respond to electronic resources, and where might they be going?” (xvii–xviii). The book’s six chapters cover a variety of important topics related to managing electronic resources, including: staffing and workflows, electronic resource management systems (ERMS), discovery tools, and e-books. Most chapters also contain useful case studies detailing local issues associated with electronic resource management at institutions such as Indiana State University, the University of Notre Dame, and Boston College.

Chapters 1, “Emerging Technical Services Models in the Context of the Past,” and 2, “Electronic Resource Management: Staffing and Workflow,” are the strongest pieces in the book. Each does a nice job of succinctly contextualizing current academic library approaches to e-resource management. In the first chapter, Elguindi and Schmidt identify two waves of
Chapter 3, “Electronic Resource Management Systems: Implementation and Transformation,” discusses the early development of ERMS and the myriad challenges associated with implementing these systems. It also describes widespread disappointment with the limitations of ERMS, including the general lack of interoperability with other systems and the resulting need to input and maintain data in multiple places. The authors also observe that while the next-generation of integrated library systems (ILS), such as Alma from Ex Libris and Sierra from Innovative Interfaces, have been developed as complete resource management systems that incorporate many functions of ERMS, it is too early to tell how successful they will be at meeting libraries’ needs for managing electronic resources.

Chapter 4, “Discovery Systems, Layers and Tools, and the Role of the Electronic Resources Librarian,” gives a brief overview of the history of OPACs, catalog overlays (e.g., VuFind), and federated searching in libraries. The authors make the case that those who manage e-resources are well suited to play a significant role in the selection, implementation, and management of the current generation of discovery tools. Despite their flaws, these discovery systems are necessary tools if libraries are to remain viable starting points in the research process. In addition, the authors see these tools as offering challenges and opportunities for others in technical services—such as catalogers and acquisitions personnel—in that they need to be aware of how the data they work with is being used in systems outside of the ILS, and that they too have a role to play in the management and continual improvement of discovery products.

Both this chapter and the chapter on ERMS that precedes it are quite good at quickly synthesizing information about the history of the systems discussed, and offer sensible advice for how technical services can evolve to better meet the needs of end users.

The book closes with two chapters, “Academic Library Consortia and the Evolving Role of Electronic Resources and Technology,” and “Conclusion: E-books and the Future of Technical Services,” that are less satisfying than the others. The chapter on consortia feels somewhat rushed. The description of how a switch from print-centric to electronic-centric collections will affect these organizations—something that should be a meaty topic for a book with this focus—is given very short shrift. Likewise, I was disappointed by the authors’ lack of focus on the implications of patron-driven acquisitions in the concluding chapter on e-books. A separate, fully fleshed out chapter summarizing the authors’ vision for the future of technical services would have been a more welcome conclusion to the book.

Despite these drawbacks, I found this book to be a compelling and enjoyable read. It is clear that the authors were not aiming to treat exhaustively these topics, so certain omissions are understandable. While I think this book would be of most value to library students or those new to the field, it should also be of interest to anyone working in technical services.—Bill Walsh (wwalsh@gsu.edu), Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia