Gould, rather than advocating for the abolishment of peer review, offers steps that can be taken to improve this important part of academia. Other authors have tackled this topic, and Gould cites many of them throughout his text and with references at the end of each chapter. This book would be useful for institutions discussing or reevaluating the peer review process, as well as those studying open access journals and online publishing.—Lynda Aldana (laldana@umbc.edu), University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, Maryland

Reference


From the title one may surmise that Jeannette Woodward’s book focuses on e-books in libraries, but The Transformed Library is actually a timely and accurate assessment of the state of libraries in today’s world relative to technology and economy. Woodward offers insightful advice to librarians on how to survive and thrive during these times of rapid technological transformation and dramatic budget cuts.

Woodward organizes this slim volume into nine chapters and includes an introduction, conclusion, and index. The first chapter, “Gutenberg Meets Kindle: The Arrival of Digital Books,” focuses on e-book use in libraries and provides a brief history of the shift from the printed to digital word. Chapter 2, “Libraries vs. E-Publishers: The Library’s Point of View,” discusses the difficult relationship that currently exists between publishers and libraries that circulate e-books; the author also addresses related issues involving e-media in this chapter. Chapter 3, “The Age of High Anxiety: Threats That Fuel Library Nightmares,” examines the effect of outsourcing on library constituents, specifically when local governments decide to outsource public libraries to save money. Chapter 4, “The Library in Cyberspace,” describes how libraries have fallen behind in communication and social networking technologies, and provides strategies for rectifying this situation. In chapter 5, “Will the Coffee Shop Save Us? The Library as Place,” explores how libraries can fulfill people’s need for a public place. Woodward contends that successful libraries are those that develop space from the patron’s viewpoint, and when cozy and warm spatial designs delight patrons and invite them to stay. In chapter 6, “Library Careers That Won’t Go Away,” Woodward advises librarians on how to develop marketable skills for an uncertain future. She also briefly advises library science programs on how to graduate marketable students who possess the requisite skill set for twenty-first century information professionals. The next three chapters focus on survival strategies for different types of libraries: public libraries (chapter 7), academic libraries (chapter 8), and school libraries (chapter 9). Within these chapters, Woodward depicts different scenarios on how libraries could fail or succeed depending on how they adapt to the changing requirements of the communities they serve.

The main points Woodward repeats throughout her book are that libraries must not only evolve technologically to stay current with user needs, but they must also evolve spatially and programmatically. Libraries must stay customer-focused to maintain relevancy and garner community support, especially in these difficult economic times. These survival strategies also include workflow and daily task adjustments, and expanding hours of service. Such flexibility and customer-centric policies will result in patrons viewing their libraries as essential, and fighting to keep them financed.

Woodward’s viewpoint is not apocalyptic, but at times she is realistically grim, particularly in cases where libraries fail to be customer-oriented. She stresses that librarians must market themselves and their services, as constituents and financial decision-makers will not automatically recognize the value of information professionals. Librarians must reach out and educate said decision makers while garnering the support of those who benefit from their services. Most importantly, Woodward stresses that as long as libraries are receptive to change and evolve with their communities, they will ultimately survive.

In the introduction Woodward states that she is writing for other librarians. However, I would highly recommend this read to first-year library science (LIS) students as her book provides an excellent overview and summary of where libraries have been, their current state of affairs, and their future outlook. Woodward offers a good framework for such students beginning their studies; she gives them an accurate context within which to approach topics as they learn about the field and the future roles that information professionals will fulfill. Woodward’s book would give LIS students a solid basis from which to contemplate the various types of communities they may be best suited to serve. Her book could also help students develop strategies for success in the profession. —Shannon Fox (sfox@austincollege.edu), Austin College, Sherman, Texas


Librarians are inherently disadvantaged in collecting for professional programs as they often approach this responsibility as an outsider. Standard
selection tools (Resources for College Libraries, Books in Print, Choice, Ulrich’s) largely ignore materials that support these programs, such as technical reports, digital image databases, government documents, sacred literature, conference proceedings, theses and dissertations, and textbooks. Furthermore, library materials for professional programs include both core titles in the discipline as well as very current materials for certification or testing requirements. Recent collection management texts cover many of the issues contained herein (concepts method, deselection, collection development policies), but tend to be light on selection tools for the librarian charged with building in these areas.

Acquisitions Librarian (now Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship) published a series of subject-specific collection development articles in 2004, which were incorporated into the monograph, Selecting Materials for Library Collections (Haworth Information, 2004). Although the theoretical content holds and selection tools are still used, some descriptions in this book are outdated. The chapter on nursing refers to the Brandon-Hill lists and E-streams for nursing, neither of which is being maintained. The ALCTS Sudden Selector’s guides are limited in subject coverage, to date addressing biology, chemistry, business, and communications. Library Collection Development for Professional Programs, therefore, is a welcome guide for students of library and information science, new librarians, or those with new selection responsibilities for professional programs.

The disciplines profiled include both undergraduate and postgraduate programs: business, design, teacher education, engineering, nursing and allied health, law, library science, theology, and veterinary medicine. The chapter on bioinformatics outlines the process of developing collection guidelines for an evolving discipline, and can be applied to any emerging area of study. Interdisciplinary studies is included, as these programs have proliferated in recent years and are now “career-oriented and . . . structured similarly to professional programs” (164).

A book of contributed chapters can be uneven in content and suffer from repetition, especially in discussion of the common themes of budgets, marketing, deselection, and collection development policies. While there is some necessary overlap, these fundamental topics are covered in various depths and address needs specific to the discipline. Several touch on the importance of deselection as part of collection development, and the text also includes two chapters of case studies on weeding projects that are applicable to any discipline. The meat of each chapter, however, are the selection tools. Most chapters provide lists of core books, journals, and databases in the discipline, as well as resources for identifying additional titles from accrediting agencies, professional societies, discipline-specific publishers, review services, and electronic discussion lists. Some chapter authors provide lists of relevant Library of Congress call number ranges to assist collectors in identifying related materials in cross-disciplinary topics. Free and open access sources are included.

All chapters are written by practicing librarians, and chapters progress from the broad to the specific. With the premise that “good collection management is transferrable from position to position” (xviii), chapter 1 is “Five Steps to Efficient, Economical Collection Development”; the following chapter covers approval plans with content provided by Ingrarn. The final eight chapters of the book focus on case studies, projects, and surveys from university libraries. The book includes “bird’s eye views” of several disciplines and collecting for professional subfields. Each chapter is in article format, beginning with an abstract, introduction, and background of the discipline, and concluding with future directions in acquisitions for the discipline, a conclusion, and references. Some chapters also include further reading, which can help librarians build their selection acumen as well as provide reference sources relevant to the discipline.

Readers will find some content of limited value. “Developing a Juvenile Literature Collection in an Academic Library,” for example, recommends the Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites as two free selection sites, with appropriate cautions regarding reviews. While perhaps intending to allay concerns over using these popular sites, a short list of the salient children’s literature websites would have been more useful; there are many such sites that vary in usability, mission, and content, and readers would benefit from the recommendation of an experienced user. The nursing chapter devotes a section to the definition of a collection development policy. It also identifies basic collection development texts, but unfortunately excludes current editions.

Some editing decisions detract from the content. Each chapter includes a list of key terms and definitions, which is helpful but quirky, as these short lists include both general library terms and terms relevant to the professional program covered. The glossary for allied health programs, for example, includes H1N1, point of care tool, MSRA, Carnegie Classification, and embargo. While the definitions are helpful, it would make more sense to have a single compiled glossary at the back of the text, as is done with the references from each chapter. Additionally, the index is inconsistent and incomplete; some, but not all, of the terms included in chapter glossaries are indexed. For instance, gifts are mentioned in three chapters (one at length), but this subject is not indexed as gifts, donations, or material donations. Some terms are incompletely indexed: patron-driven acquisitions
(PDA) has several index entries, but inexplicably omits the PDA discussion in chapter 9. Another weakness concerns the graphics. Many screen shots are difficult to read, containing blurred or small print, which renders them nearly illegible. These shortcomings make the text slightly more difficult to use, but do not make it any less valuable. Content is current as evidenced by chapter citations and relatively recent publishing events (EBSCO’s purchase of H.W. Wilson, for example). Aspects of technical subjects are clearly explained and assume no prior knowledge of the discipline. Importantly, librarians with selection responsibilities for other academic and professional programs will be able to extrapolate much of the information to their own areas. This is a welcome and much-needed text for academic librarians with collection responsibilities for professional programs.—Cathy Goodwin (cgoodwin@coastal.edu), Coastal Carolina University, Conway, South Carolina


When the electronic publishing revolution launched with CD-ROM-based abstract and index services (A&I), the license substituted access for ownership and complicated library acquisitions forevmore. With the contract, libraries lost doctrines of fair use and first-sale that were so ingrained into the business of libraries as to be taken wholly for granted. Three decades after subscription budgets were gobbled up by “big deal” financials, does the library world need a 700-page print book on the subject of licensing information resources? Is there an acquisitions or collection development librarian left who is innocent of the complexities of these licenses, which tend at once to make available 24/7 more and more of the world’s fund of intellectual achievement, but at staggering costs and restrictive conditions?

Tomas Lipinski surely does not intend his hefty monograph to be read through over serial sittings, by either the innocent or jaded licensing librarian. As director of the school of library and information service at Kent State University, he joins Tracy Mitroano (Cornell University) and Kenneth Crews (Columbia University) as one of the great legal authorities in American librarianship. Lipinski’s purpose is to provide a sourcebook for licensing librarians to consult as they seek the second opinion of a serious intellectual property (IP) lawyer. His work’s theme is reducible to “contract trumps copyright law”; he seemingly cannot repeat this enough, but given the widely and wildly variant contexts in which he makes this point, the admonition does not come off as hectoring.

The Librarian’s Legal Companion for Licensing Information Resources and Services has much to recommend. For starters, the title signals Lipinski’s acceptance that the line between databases and software is often arbitrary. Indeed, he makes clear that software has always been licensed, with licensing and copyright existing side-by-side in tension and contradiction from the first stirrings of the information technology ecosystem. For every named mention of a database platform, e.g., Cengage, there is another to a software colossus like Microsoft. As if to underscore the difficulty in unraveling software’s inevitable entanglement of content, he introduces a third element, hardware in the form of the e-reader. The Kindle is sold, and under the doctrine of first-sale, libraries may lend them. But Amazon’s software is licensed, restrictively. Books for the Kindle are nontransferable. Can libraries lend Kindles even if they have not set up a complicated arrangement with OverDrive? Lipinski himself is unsure, but anyone who reads his analysis will find it less than exhaustive and illuminating.

Lipinski ventures beyond the right to distribute gadgetry, boldly venturing into the property regime of the web itself. He dissects the multiplicity of terms of use (TOU) and end user license agreements (EULA) proliferating throughout the web generally. Their language binds individuals accessing web-enabled services through any library or institution of higher education, but few patrons read these agreements and fewer understand them. Fortunately, as Lipinski points out, courts have sometimes, perhaps with surprising frequency, sided with plaintiffs claiming “unconscionability” (148), i.e., bullying by contract. His chapter on the open source movement and the development of the Creative Commons and General Public (GNU) licenses could stand alone as an essay. This is not to suggest there is any false advertising by Lipinski or his publisher, the American Library Association; this is a legal guide, after all. But the few librarians who will approach this as narrative are likely to make it to the end only if they possess more than a layperson’s grasp of US copyright statute and theory. And even those with that grasp will mostly give up before the end. Three cases in point: first, there is an entire chapter on the formal mechanisms by which a contract is officially executed; anyone who has tried to negotiate a contract hopes to get to that end stage, but by that point all the hard work has been done; the official sealing of the deal is generally straightforward. Second, he places far too much emphasis on arbitration clauses; while compulsory arbitration is a major matter in labor law and product liability, I know of no instance in which a library was forced