versus recycling or simply giving the materials away. Ward provides a thorough checklist of issues for project managers to be mindful of and an extremely detailed step-by-step instruction for the withdrawal of physical journal titles that are duplicated electronically in JSTOR. The author also goes through a similar process for print books and audiovisual items, but in a less specific way. Ward reminds readers that rightsizing is an iterative process and does not end with the conclusion of a current project. Simply put, continual assessment and evaluation of all collections must be done.

In conclusion, Ward reiterates the rightsizing mantra for library collections. She predicts (on the basis of past trends) that the library of the future will rely less on physical collections and more on electronic counterparts. Physical collections will not totally go away but rather be focused solely to meet current user informational requirements or have special local interest. Libraries will need to accept that fewer print copies will remain and most non-research-based academic libraries need to adopt access over ownership collecting philosophies; especially with electronic formats. New modes of material acquisition that put users at the helm of selection, such as patron-driven acquisition (also known as demand-driven purchasing), allow more titles to be available for instant use and purchase than would ever be feasible under the traditional title by title purchasing model. The reviewer appreciates Ward’s acknowledgement that librarians will still have a role to perform in this process, but less so for patron-demand-driven or big deal/package collections unless special profiling is needed. Ward predicts the rise of regional and/or national collections that will function as preservers of knowledge. These collections would not necessarily be located in single libraries and could be spread out collaboratively. These libraries would not engage in rightsizing activities as per a previously created agreement. But this type of an arrangement is also dependent on funding and space, both of which can potentially run out at any given time. It is also in this last chapter that Ward only briefly mentions the need to weed e-book collections, despite the fact many libraries have had e-books for over fifteen years and that there is a growing body of literature on this subject. To be fair, while starting to gain attention, “the corpus of published library literature on e-book weeding is still small compared to that of published library literature on print book weeding,” but not less important.

Rightsizing the Academic Library Collection is a wonderful addition to works on collection development and management. Administrators, library directors, collection development librarians and LIS students all would benefit from reading Ward’s book. After reflecting on this work, other issues worth pondering are the short- and long-term effect of student-centered selection; how well this type of a collection will serve future institutional research needs; and if a majority of users will ever truly become comfortable having a majority of digital-only materials. User selection presumes that users know what it is they need and have the ability to judge quality. The findings on whether or not not populating resource discovery systems with all sorts of articles, books, videos, theses, and digitized items helps or hinders users’ attempts to meet their specific informational needs has yet to be determined as well. Resource discovery tools and the materials indexed within them might very well qualify for their own dose of rightsizing. After all, should not libraries strive to provide access to information that Google cannot locate in the interest of remaining distinctive and relevant to all campus constituents? Yet, until publishers and libraries work together to find a way to remove the restrictive barriers associated with lending and borrowing e-books, homogeneity in collections will dominate—not distinctness. However, if a library suffers from a lack of space, static or decreasing budget, low gate counts, and a declining use of physical collections, then performing rightsizing activities is definitely part of the solution toward attaining importance and relevance. For “no useless lumber is more useless than unused books.”—John N. Jax (jjax@uwlaax.edu), University of Wisconsin—La Crosse, La Crosse, Wisconsin

References


Digital preservation involves careful planning and management and Digital Preservation in Libraries, Archives, and Museums addresses the technology, but more importantly the all-inclusive meaning and objectives of digital preservation. The authors thoughtfully organized the book into four parts grounded in a concept called the Digital Preservation Triad. Management tools that encompass the scope and depth of the project while considering the present and future of the collection are also included.

The first section, “Introduction to Digital Preservation,” covers everything from what, why, and how management deals with the challenges of a digital preservation project.
The Digital Preservation Triad is introduced as being composed of management, content, and technology, all interconnected in the life cycle of digital preservation stewardship. This section highlights the fact that management is just as important as the technology used to preserve the content. The second part, “Management Aspects,” discusses the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) Reference Model. The authors advocate that for a digital preservation project to be successful, communication must occur between management, preservationists, and stakeholders. Commitment to the long-term preservation should hold just as much importance as the plans, policies, technology, and funding for a project. The chapters in this section explain digital management and trends as well as successfully setting up a project while considering all the aspects involved in a digital undertaking.

The next section, “Technology Aspects,” emphasizes that trust is central to any digital preservation project. Trust includes the integrity and confidence of a person or thing that also bears evidence that the digital repository or system can be trusted. Explanation of the audit and certification standards supports the authors’ statement of trust and the need for trustworthiness for everyone involved in the digital process. Various criteria, checklists, and certifications are discussed along with the reasons why all of these measures provide digital preservationists with the structure that creates a successful environment for long-term digital preservation projects. Incorporating these measures will enable stakeholders to trust in and carry their interest for a sustainable digital environment into the future.

The authors provide insight into the organization and retrieval of metadata. The chapter emphasizes that metadata’s accuracy is a continual process that must be accomplished via standards such as Dublin Core Metadata Element sets, National Information Standards Organization (NISO), and Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS). Various markup languages are defined throughout this chapter and clarify the elements of metadata involved in the description of digital preservation. The final chapter goes over file formats and reminds the reader that there is no one definitive format for all digital archives, but rather determinations will need to be made as to which format a digital archive will use for the particular collection. This chapter is a must read for digital preservation managers and staff because it is especially useful as a resource to examine the descriptive options available to their projects.

Part 4, “Content-related Aspects,” is the final area discussed as part of the Digital Preservation Triad. This area ties together all the reasons why content is not only valuable to, but also the reason for, any digital preservation project. Management, staff, and the technology being used must take into consideration the content. This involves the areas of collection development, copyright, metadata, staffing, and funding. This chapter provides the reader with direction for any digital project, pinpointing steps to consider and succeed in a preservation project. The authors emphasize that the life-cycle of a digital object defines the research data acquired in the collection and creation of that object. The detailed discussion of present and future challenges of any preservation project are a vital resource for anyone contemplating a data management plan.

The book concludes with the authors stating that though any digital preservation project can seem daunting and insurmountable, the Digital Preservation Triad provides three elements that must be present to ensure success: management, content, and technology. They also include additional educational opportunities, directing readers to other sources pertinent to any digital preservation project management. The book includes a foreword by Michael Lesk, a forerunner in digital librarianship and preservation. An appendix provides additional information and resources for preservationists. The book includes technical jargon, but the authors do an excellent job of explaining and providing resources that define the relevant terminology through a thorough glossary. Each chapter is well organized and leads the reader into the next chapter without changing the flow of how to approach a digital project.

The objective of this book is to benefit libraries, archives, and museum personnel in their development of a digital preservation project. This objective succeeds in providing the aspects of such projects. The authors’ use of the Digital Preservation Triad brings management, content, and technology into the life cycle of not just the object, but provides the backbone of a sustainable digital project and this text. The book is full of practical and understandable steps, as well as explains in detail all that must be considered by the organization as well as the managers, staff, and stakeholders. The authors address how management planning must include funding now and in the future, policies to ensure that digital obsolescence does not render the collection closed to generations of the future, and usage of the skills of staff to create the metadata necessary to provide access. This book would certainly be a practical guide that appeals to librarians, archivists, administrators, and managers, as well as professionals seeking answers to questions that should be addressed before or during a digital preservation initiative.—Susan I. Kane, MLS (susan.kane@alvernia.edu), Alvernia University, Reading, Pennsylvania


The author of Managing Copyright in Higher Education is uniquely qualified to tackle this topic. With a Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD) degree from Suffolk University Law