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# Book Reviews

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***New Top Technologies Every Librarian Needs to Know.*** Ed. Kenneth J. Varnum. Chicago: ALA Neal-Schuman, 2019. 287 p. \$64.99 softcover (ISBN 978-0-8389-1782-4).

*New Top Technologies Every Librarian Needs to Know* is a compilation of chapters by various authors from technical and digital public services backgrounds edited by Kenneth J. Varnum. A follow up to *Top Technologies Every Librarian Needs to Know*,<sup>1</sup> also edited by Varnum, the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) has published this second volume to review the predictions from the first, and “take a gaze into 2018’s near-term future with a new set” (xi). Recognizing most libraries have embedded some technologies previously discussed in the earlier volume fully, such as text mining, digital libraries, and cloud-based systems, while others such as virtual reality (VR) are still in the nascent stages, this volume explores how some technologies have changed, as well as investigating new ones being developed and implemented now.

This compact volume covers a variety of technology topics. Organized around four broad themes, “Data,” “Services,” “Repositories and Access,” and “Interoperability,” each chapter examines the current state of a technology, explores how libraries and archives use it, and draws conclusions on the state of its future. The chapters each contain a case study on a technological implementation and examine the short and longer-term pros and cons and the effects on library services and staffing.

Part 1 examines linked open data, the Internet of Things, and web archiving for both short and long-term preservation, including an in-depth discussion of link and reference rot. Across this theme is the recognition that new bibliographic frameworks will integrate library data within non-library search engines and interfaces. However, this will lead to challenges in maintaining standardization and preservation standards, requiring the need to communicate with outside technologies and organizations to maximize the ability of librarianship to connect users to the information they need.

Part 2 examines the ways libraries are adapting and enhancing services to meet the expectations of various user groups. Chapter 5 examines the role librarianship plays in privacy protection tools, and describes how librarians both individually and collectively, such as via the Library Freedom Project, play a pivotal role in advising users and adopting and advocating for these tools. Chapters on data and information visualizations and VR illustrate how libraries

can create customized interfaces across multiple formats that meet the many ways users prefer to search for and consume content.

Part 3 explores how libraries support scholarship through digital repositories, exhibits, and publishing. While digital content has become commonplace in libraries, users need to be informed about how to find and use this content and use the services offered. These digital services allow libraries, academic institutions, museums, publishers, and other organizations to work together. Nontraditional digital services support researchers not only in doing research such as providing data for text mining and other projects, but also help the researchers produce and present their work. As a result, libraries can participate actively in the scholarly output of their users.

Part 4 explores interoperability. The most technical and forward looking of the themes, these chapters go into depth about technologies such as bots, machine learning, and mobile technologies that soon will be or are already are a part of daily life. The expansion of application programming interfaces (APIs) and cloud-based services will be crucial for libraries to be both developers and participants in these technologies. For example, chapter 13 discusses how the University of Toronto Libraries uses the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIF), a set of standardized APIs, to share digital objects from their digital special collections across multiple repositories at once.

Several themes emerge in almost every chapter of the book. Most notably is a focus on technology being user driven. User expectations are currently the driving force for developing content, tools, and processes. Library professionals need to acknowledge that these expectations have become more varied as technology becomes more prevalent in daily life. Being proactive and adaptable rather than reactive is essential as users expect personalization and the ability to access content anytime and from anywhere. Collaboration is also prevalent throughout each case study. Library professionals must collaborate with each other, publishers, outside organizations, users, and other stakeholders for libraries to be relevant and successful. As more institutions adopt technologies that follow international standards and allow for interoperability, discovery and access will improve. Finally, while receiving its own separate section of

the book, every chapter in some way touches on the idea of interoperability. From traditional bibliographic records now created with linked data, to digital repositories needing to be able to be integrated with other digital tools and standards, to all library technologies needing to work on mobile devices, findability of content is increasingly the focus of libraries. Without increasing interoperability in enhancing and adopting new technologies, it would not be possible for libraries to fulfill their central role of helping users find and connect to the information they need.

While not a practical guide for implementing the technologies discussed, this volume is an excellent primer on the main concepts of these newer and challenging technological developments. This volume would be useful for managers, students, and any library professional interested

in technological trends. Because it is not a how-to guide, this book raises questions for library professionals who wish to explore and prepare for implementing technologies that will affect library services, planning, and resource requirements. The case studies provide practical experience, but largely the value in this volume is that it is a starting point in thinking about technological questions.—*Jocelyn Lewis* (*jlewis21@gmu.edu*), *George Mason University*

#### References

1. Ed., Kenneth J. Varnum, *The Top Technologies Every Librarian Needs to Know: A LITA Guide* (Chicago: ALA TechSource, 2014).

***Collection Development and Management for 21st Century Library Collections.*** By Vicki L. Gregory, Chicago: ALA Neal-Schuman, 2019. 2nd ed. 264 p. \$79.99 softcover (ISBN 978-0-8389-1712-1).

Vicki L. Gregory is a well-known academic who has written seven other books describing librarianship and electronic and web resources. This review pertains to the second edition of her 2011 landmark textbook, *Collection Development and Management for 21st Century Library Collections*,<sup>1</sup> which had been in good company with Peggy Johnson's *Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management*<sup>2</sup> and Maggie Fieldhouse and Audrey Marshall's *Collection Development in the Digital Age*.<sup>3</sup> Providing a thorough introduction on the management and future of library collections, this text offers practical tools and invaluable advice. The content is geared toward students of information science who are new to collection maintenance and collection development. However, this book would also be beneficial for all levels of practitioners. Gregory clearly describes the useful collection development and maintenance processes that all librarians, whether in the collection manager role or not, would find invaluable.

The beginning chapters can be understood as a natural progression of steps through the unique stages of collection development, needs assessment, marketing, collection development policy writing, selecting, acquiring materials, and budgeting. Logically structured in regard to library processes, not by resource type, Gregory's text uses material format and type as examples rather than the driving force behind the book's organization. Chapter 1, "The Impact of New Technologies on Collection Development and Management," gives a quick overview of the variety of forces that drive the changes in library collections' constitution. Examples include open access serials, self-publishing, and social networking. The "long tail," which is "the pressure to provide more and different books, serials, and materials in electronic format" has been fostered by the glut of products

made available through online shopping on the web (5). The scope of what libraries offer in their collections continues to change, but the processes to select, manage, and review those collections will persist even as the variety of materials continue to evolve.

One main point that Gregory conveys is the intentionality of using data, structured planning, and policy writing in collection development. Ensuring high-quality collections through intentional practices is a major theme of the text. The data from user population studies and collection evaluations significantly impact a library's decision making. With a disdain for ad hoc, case-by-case resource selections, Gregory reinforces how a data-driven collection development plan can be implemented through community analyses, collection evaluations, and selection criteria. Gregory's insistence on thoughtfulness bestows on the reader a perspective beyond the library stacks. The reader can see clearly that the collection is meant to serve users with excellent materials that they both want and need.

In addition to the evidence of statistics and numbers, consider also the larger historical context and purpose of libraries and their collections. Matching the depth of her working experience, Gregory commands a strong background in the history of libraries. In chapter 4, "Selection Sources and Processes," she describes the change in American libraries' missional emphasis from the nineteenth century model, which sought to gentrify the public through tasteful literature, to a shift in the mid-twentieth century to support the public's tastes for best sellers and popular magazines (51). A balance between an erudite mission to advance scholarship and a love of learning with the "give 'em what they want" attitude can be found in the variety of collection development policies and selection criteria that