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


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, which had been in good company with Peggy Johnson’s Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management and Maggie Fieldhouse and Audrey Marshall’s Collection Development in the Digital Age. 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
are currently in use. This theme is repeated and expanded upon later in the concluding chapter. Gregory revisits the intersection of these two approaches with a call to arms as “librarians’ growing roles as teachers who train users in information literacy and fluency.” By “guiding users to the best-quality materials” the profession propels further into the 21st century (189).

The second half of the book involves collection management in terms of collection maintenance and guardianship. Aspects of collection management are framed through discussions on collection review and evaluation, cooperatives and resources sharing, legal issues, professional ethics, and preservation. Presenting the reader with enough breadth and depth to lay a foundation for these subjects, readers gain an understanding of the topics such as the correct handling of donations, weeding and deselection projects, and book display challenges. Electronic resources present problems involving copyright and preservation. Gregory provides helpful selected readings and references at the end of each chapter to further learning and research. The reader finds a more than adequate framework of support material in the text’s figures and sidebars. Important historical milestones in the profession include excerpts from the Library Bill of Rights and the Marrakesh Treaty. The thoughtful touch of Gregory’s working experiences can be found in the indispensable checklists that include “Tips for a Successful Licensing Agreement” and a vocabulary of “DRM Terms.” Such items are well-suited to be embedded in the text rather than listed as appendices. Items earning a figure number are different: forms, pictures, and charts. Examples include “Figure 5.2 Representative pricing samples for electronic serials” and “Figure 3.7 Sample challenge form.” The appendix is a twenty page “List of Library Vendors: Publishers, Wholesalers, and Vendors.” It is made more usable by grouping the sellers by which type of library would use them.

The activities and discussion questions at the end of certain chapters offer concrete exercises for the reader. Readers are invited to put their newly understood concepts into action by giving them the opportunity to consider how this aspect of a librarian’s work approached in a real-world example. One activity from the “Legal Issues in Collection Development” involves a valuable and desirable gift that the reader is asked to consider declining or accepting (154) that harkens back to the “Acquisitions” subchapter, “Beware of Gifts with Strings Attached” (86-87). Before the comprehensive index is an inspired bibliography organized alphabetically, by the themes of the book. The themes are not direct chapter titles but certainly would become a reader’s starting point to delve more deeply into ideas that are, in most cases, spread throughout the text. These resources will no doubt be helpful for students preparing for their career and for practicing librarians at many levels serving in a variety of roles.—Emily Szitas (eszitas@iup.edu), Indiana University of Pennsylvania

References


Cataloging ethics have received significant attention in recent years, notably via a series of events and discussions held under the umbrella of the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) Cataloging and Metadata Management Section (CaMMS) exploring the potential development of a code of cataloging ethics. At the same time, the “critlib” (critical librarianship) movement has grown, creating both virtual and physical spaces for exploring social justice principles in the context of library work.¹ Catalogers have initiated conversations about social justice in metadata work under the “critcat” banner.² The publication of Ethical Questions in Name Authority Control is timely in this environment, where both ethics and social justice are leading concerns for many catalogers and metadata professionals.

Editor Jane Sandberg sets the stage for the eighteen essays comprising the book by framing name authority work as storytelling in which catalogers have power over the people they describe. Catalogers “seek out these stories, decide which stories to include in an authority record” and “sometimes tell a story of their own within an authority record” (1–2). Sandberg’s framing is apt; taken as a whole, the book’s essays successfully make the case that cataloger choices in name authority control must be understood as ethical choices, requiring critical thought and careful consideration of both cultural context and impact on the people being described.

Several major themes recur throughout the book. One theme is the tension that exists between the needs of the information user (which catalogers have historically