Book Review

Michael Fernandez, editor

Crash Course in Collection Development, Third Edition. Wayne Disher. New York: Bloomsbury Libraries Unlimited. 2023. 208 p. $60.95 softcover (ISBN 9781440880438); $110.00 hardback (ISBN 9798216170082); $54.85 E-book PDF (ISBN 9781440880445).

Crash Course in Collection Development by Wayne Disher successfully outlines many of the aspects within collection development, such as community considerations, assessment and evaluation, policies, budgets, maintenance, and the promotion of new materials, to name a few. Each chapter is broken down in a way that provides a high enough level view of a given topic to inform the reader, but not too detailed that it becomes proscriptive for this text to truly be seen as a crash course.

For readers new to collection development or those interested in learning more, the text covers the foundations of collection development by explaining what a collection is, how collection management differs from collection development, and addresses the different types of collections that are typically observed within a library such as multimedia, databases, and archives. The text then explores the various populations that a collection might serve and how libraries can ensure needs are being met with the use of community analysis, assessment, and policies.

Assessment and evaluation are essential in collection development and the chapters that have been dedicated to the details of why, as well as examples of how, can be appreciated even by experts. For example, chapter 4 ("Collection Use and Statistics for Collection Developers") shares a form of measurement called "Information Delivery Speed" which measures the time it takes to provide access to material to a user that is not already in a collection. This type of measurement is important when ensuring that libraries are meeting the needs of their users and doing so in a timely manner. Policy is another area that is explored to help guide the very act of collection development, though it should be noted that the information provided on this topic is quite broad and does not emphasize the importance of collection development policies, especially in an era where book challenges and bans are at an all-time high.

After the question of "what to collect?" is answered, the text moves onto "how to collect" with chapters on budgets, selecting, and acquiring. There is even a whole chapter on the publishing industry that dives into the process of publishing! It is unlikely that someone working in collection development will deal with all of these topics, but these chapters are valuable in that they provide insight on how libraries are able to collect materials. Insights about funding models and the challenges that come along with shrinking budgets and high inflation will prepare the reader to start thinking creatively about how they will collect materials for their users. The text delves into the process of selection, providing excellent examples of criteria used during the process that even experts on collection development may find useful such as demand and usage—ensuring there is balance within a collection—with special consideration given to authors, cost, and reviews.

The text then leads the reader into the natural next steps of collection development: maintaining, preserving, and promoting a collection. The author uses these chapters to point out the importance of

ensuring a collection is relevant, accurate, and healthy, especially when libraries have limited space. Chapter 13 ("Collection Promotion and Merchandising") provides the reader with detailed ideas on the various possibilities to promote a collection such as displays and the challenges that come along with promotion such as space or cost. This aspect is not always well represented or discussed in collection development, but promoting a collection is essential as it is important to increase visibility and accessibility of the collection. A poorly-promoted collection is a missed opportunity to increase use, which could impact weeding decisions later.

As the text wraps up, chapter 14 ("Handling Complaints about the Collection") may have been better positioned as part of the chapter on policies, but it still belongs within the text. Readers expecting to gain a better understanding on the specifics of book challenges and bans will need to consult other texts as this chapter only provides high level details such as intellectual freedom and how to prepare for general complaints and challenges. The last chapter, chapter 15 ("Collections for the Digital Age"), leaves the text open to be continually updated and while we are very much steeped in the digital age, technology and the online environment will continue to change.

As the third edition of this *Crash Course*, the text speaks to the changes within collection development throughout the years—such as added content around electronic resources—but also becomes more inclusive by adding other types of libraries to the perspective, such as academic libraries, where previous editions of the text were mostly focused on public libraries. The broadening of the text's current edition ensures that libraries of various types can find benefits from this book. Readers should be mindful that some of the examples are a bit dated, having been carried over from previous editions. Despite some dated examples, there are several places within the text that prove the author has worked to ensure the content is relevant and accurate, notably in discussions around new formats or lending models.

Crash Course in Collection Development can be used as a starting point for those new to collection development, or even by experts as a text to refer back to for ideas. Disher has more than twenty years of library experience and has authored other textbooks in the library science field. That experience and expertise provides a wealth of knowledge, making this text one that can be referred to when more guidance within a particular area of collection development is necessary.—*Erica Barnett (ejbarnett@ wcu.edu), Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina*