

Book Review

Collection Management Basics, Eighth Edition. By Margaret Zarnosky Saponaro, John Novak, and G. Edward Evans. New York: Bloomsbury, 2025. 432p. \$67.95 softcover (ISBN 9798216170259); \$130.00 hardcover (ISBN 9798216170297).

Collections Management Basics is a textbook focused on all aspects of collections—from selection to preservation—for all types of libraries. This updated edition is the eighth in the series and continues to discuss different aspects of the collection management cycle in easy-to-understand chapters. Each chapter draws attention to information with callout boxes such as “Check This Out,” which highlights specific articles or examples. Another callout box titled “Something to Watch” captures a new trend in collections. In addition, “From the Advisory Board” provides a narrative from one of the three advisory board members from public and school libraries who helped contribute to this edition. The “From the Advisory Board” callout boxes resembled the quick tips that you would hear in between sessions at a library conference akin to “at my library we did this” type advice, which could either be helpful or impractical depending on the reader.

This textbook appears to be comparable to *Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management* by Peggy Johnson and Mary Beth Weber and *Collection Development and Management for 21st Century Library Collections* by Vicki L. Gregory.¹ Although Johnson and Weber’s textbook is more in depth and Gregory’s is a concise text less concerned with the history of collections and more focused on present day, the authors of this textbook strike a balance between the two that is more approachable for library and information science students.

While *Collections Management Basics* is meant to serve as a library and information science textbook, it is also a great resource for new or mid-career librarians who have taken on a role within the collection management cycle. Each element of collections is introduced, explained, and then dissected, providing the history and updated challenges that many library staff encounter when working in collections. For example, the chapter “Assessing User Needs” provides a background on the importance of conducting a needs assessment based on library users (78), explains how to get started with collecting data (82), and then goes in depth on how to find demographic data (87) and how to communicate value using data visualizations (89).

This eighth edition of *Collections Management Basics* covers the unique challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors discuss the importance that was placed on e-resources during this period (8), the way collaboration changed due to remote work (243), and the need for additional disaster preparedness plans to ensure access to information (349). Many of the chapters touch on how the pandemic affected all types of libraries and what decisions were made as a result of this new shift in patron behavior. For example, many universities reduced their print serials based on the lack of need by patrons during this time of limited print access. Library staff had time to complete assessment reviews of their print serials collections to see what could be removed in order to save space and future staff time (290).

In addition to the pandemic coverage, this edition explores trends to watch closely that were emerging at the time of publication. Some of these trends are called out specifically in the “Something to Watch” sections, while others are interspersed within the chapters. Artificial intelligence started to impact libraries in a significant way during the writing of this edition, and its implications for copyright were only beginning to be explored. Other new trends that affected library collections were #BookTok and review bombing. The #BookTok trend has contributed to an increase of patron requests and will continue to impact book selection in public and academic libraries (50). In determining which books to purchase, library staff often read online reviews, including reviews on the Goodreads website. Goodreads addressed recent “review bombing,” which is when users post negative reviews that have nothing to do with the book itself and often are used to harass authors (106). This anecdote served as a reminder to read multiple reviews for a book before making a final purchasing decision.

Overall, this textbook allows library and information science students, as well as library staff, to gain an understanding of each aspect of the collection management cycle and does so in a manageable fourteen chapters. Each chapter ends with a “Points to Keep in Mind” section that summarizes the chapter in a short, bullet-point format. There is also a list of references in every section that allows readers to go deeper into an example or resource from that chapter. While the three authors are experienced academic librarians and administrators, the addition of the public and school advisory board members enables this resource to be beneficial to public and academic library staff alike. However, there are few examples from special libraries. Future editions could include anecdotes or advisory board members from special libraires to assist library staff in hospital, law, or other unique libraries. The examples from academic and public libraries can help all collections library staff from all libraries understand the basics of the collection management cycle and how to handle challenges with intellectual freedom, open access, digital resources, and financial constraints. The authors have updated this edition to account for new emerging trends and new ways to perform collection management basic duties. —Rayla E. Tokarz (rtokarz@unr.edu), University of Nevada, Reno

Note

1. Peggy Johnson and Mary Beth Weber, *Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management*, 5th ed. (Facet Publishing, 2025); Vicki L. Gregory, *Collection Development and Management for 21st Century Library Collections: An Introduction*, 2nd ed. (ALA Neal-Schuman, 2019).