Bugs, Bogs, Bats, and Books: Sharing Nature with Children through Reading. By Kathleen T. Isaacs. Chicago: Huron Street Press, 2014. 260 p. Paper $19.95 (ISBN: 978-1-937589-58-5).

Teacher and librarian Kathleen Isaacs offers a carefully compiled book on a timely topic. Seeking to help parents and caregivers combat "nature deficit" in their children, the author lists and describes books about nature that are appropriate for children from birth through age ten. Both fiction and nonfiction are included, and most of the titles were published in the last four years.

Each chapter begins with a helpful introduction to the topic. The chapters are further subdivided into more specific areas. For example, the chapter "More Animals" is divided into sections on sea creatures, birds, and mammals. Isaacs also includes a chapter on naturalists who later became children's authors and illustrators. The sections in this chapter begin with a brief biography of the naturalist followed by a thoughtful description of his or her individual style and focus.

Each annotation is about 150 words in length and provides a thorough sense of the title's tone and flavor. The beginning of each entry indicates the appropriate audience or suggested use for the book. Although most books are tagged as informational picture books, other suggestions for use include "early reader" and "bedtime story." The entry also indicates a suggested age range.

Interspersed throughout the book are easy and approachable science activities, such as planting an avocado pit, counting birds in the backyard, or taking a walk. For each of these activities, Isaacs mentions related real-life projects and provides links to relevant web sites.

For the layperson, perhaps the most helpful portion of the book is Chapter 2, "Choosing Good Nature Books." Indeed, the guidelines presented here are relevant to the selection of books on any topic: Using the child's interests to guide selection; choosing books written with clarity and enthusiasm as well as accuracy; and selecting books whose illustrations enhance the text and deepen one's understanding of the topic.

Librarians will find no surprises here: The titles discussed in this book will be familiar to most library staff. *Bugs, Bogs, Bats, and Books* will be most useful to parents hoping to find nature books for their children. As such, it would be helpful in the circulating collection or as an at-home reference.

Kathleen Isaacs is also the author of the well-received *Picturing the World: Informational Picture Books for Children*, published in 2013. — *Gina Petrie, Children's Librarian, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Charlotte, North Carolina*

Exploring Digital Libraries: Foundations, Practice, Prospects. By Karen Calhoun. Chicago: ALA Neal-Schuman, 2014. 320 p. Paper $95 (ISBN: 978-1-55570-985-3).

Librarians today, particularly those of us who have been in the profession for less than a decade, often take for granted the vast resources that are available online. Whether we're at the reference desk, teaching a class, or consulting with a faculty member on research, we turn initially, and often exclusively, to our computers. Although many of us are familiar with the rich digital library collections available at our fingertips, we are often less cognizant of how these collections were created and developed over time. In *Exploring Digital Libraries: Foundations, Practice, Prospects*, Karen Calhoun describes the innovations and technologies that have shaped digital libraries and offers a vision for how they might become further engaged with the communities they serve.

This authoritative analysis begins by looking as far back as 1965 to trace the fascinating history of the technologies, innovations, and visions for the future that laid the foundation for the ambitious digital library projects that began in the early 1990s. In-depth accounts of both successes and failures shed light on how digital library efforts around the globe have evolved in relation to advances in areas such as digitization and open-access initiatives as well as changes in scholarly communication. In the second half of the book, she explores the potential for a shift from a focus on collections toward a more community-oriented perspective that leverages the social web.

The author's knowledge and experience in this field is considerable. However, rather than rely exclusively on her own expertise, she has conducted extensive research and consultation with others in the field to present a work that is authoritative and international in scope. This is evidenced early on with her considered evaluation of the changing ways in which digital libraries have been defined. She charts definitions from the early 1990s to the present and reflects on how these definitions have evolved while also offering her own interpretation of what constitutes a digital library. Additionally, in chapters addressing the social roles of digital libraries, she interviews nine well-known digital library experts to examine key factors that make digital libraries successful.

Exploring Digital Libraries offers insight into the emergence, progress, and future of digital libraries and will meet the needs of any reader with an interest in the topic. Calhoun's work makes the complexity of digital libraries comprehensible to non-experts while also contributing new research to the field. It will undoubtedly serve as an essential work in the field of digital librarianship. —*Amanda Dinscore, Public Services Librarian, California State University, Fresno, California*

Exploring Environmental Science with Children and Teens. By Eileen D. Harrington. Chicago: ALA Editions, 2014. 264 p. Paper $50 (ISBN: 978-0-8389-1198-3).

Current classroom education focuses primarily on reading and math. This leaves little room for learning material that inspires scientific inquiry. To address the gaps in learning, many educators advocate for school-aged children to have more exposure to the sciences through STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) curricula. In an effort to meet this need, *Exploring Environmental Sciences with Children and Teens* by Eileen G. Harrington creates an avenue for