

SOURCES

some of us who forget to do that for ourselves in regard to technology. Bolan and Cullin give clear examples that cut through the geek speak and lay it all out in a compact format for those venturing into the technology realm. The main concept that the authors are trying to relay is best explained in the “Know IT” chapter: “Don’t be afraid! Technology does not have to be rocket science” (47), and the book keeps that approach throughout. Topics include all the things that experienced IT people would want their colleagues to understand, even if they can’t explain it clearly themselves. The topics cover everything from the role of libraries in the technology world, needs analysis, using focus groups, staff skills evaluation, using consultants, collaboration to make IT work, training, and more. Each chapter gives examples of libraries that are doing a particularly good job regarding the topic being addressed, and the real-life examples show readers that they aren’t alone in their ambitions (or even their apprehensions). Perhaps one of the best parts of the book is the material contained in the appendixes, which includes worksheets for everything from inventory control to license tracking to marketing the technology; comparison data on demographics, technology budgets, and more; sample IT job descriptions; and sample publications that libraries can use to promote their technology.

This book is a useful tool for administrators and front-line librarians in small and medium libraries as well as for those looking to enter the library technology field.—*Adriana Edwards-Johnson, Virtual Library Manager, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma*

A Year of Programs for Teens. Amy J. Alessio and Kimberly A. Patton. Chicago: ALA, 2007. 168 p. \$35 (ISBN 0-8389-0903-5).

Teens are a population often unrecognized and underserved in library service, but this book makes them top priority, single-handedly attempting to correct (and, at times, overcompensate for) such lamentable disservice.

This book is geared toward those upper elementary, high school, and public libraries that are searching for inspiration and programming ideas. Information about creating a framework for library teen services is missing, making this

book more useful for idea gathering and programming examples than for guidance in establishing a philosophy of teen services.

The first part of the book provides a limited overview of considerations regarding teen programming, such as planning, promoting, and executing programs. Monthly club-type offerings are briefly outlined, such as teen advisory boards, writing clubs, and coffeehouses. The importance of networking with other agencies serving teens and community service for teens also are touched upon briefly.

Part two, comprising the majority of the book, provides a great collection of programming possibilities. Month-by-month, thematic programming ideas are offered, including brief descriptions, preparation times, program lengths, number of participants, age ranges, shopping lists, timelines for organization and setup, detailed instructions, and other program variations and hints. At the end of each month’s section, there are more suggestions, including thematic passive programs, resource lists, and display materials. As a bonus, the appendix reproduces several examples of various relevant administrative documents, promotional items, and programming materials that will be of great benefit to readers.

As a whole, the programming calendar is overwhelming; but in small doses, or as a starting point, the ideas are ready-to-use—either as presented or with adjustments for specific libraries—and they may lead to whole new ideas for readers. Program suggestions vary from the passive selections that stand alone and run themselves, such as “Fast Food Trivia,” to the more aggressive, labor-intensive programming, such as the “Back to School Fashion Show.” Some programs may be difficult to justify in a library setting unless the organization’s goal is to attract teens in any way possible, as through entertainment, food, and rewards.

Alessio and Patton offer their expertise in an accessible, easy-to-read format that is highly usable. Above all, these ideas have been tried and tested, which means less guesswork and valuable time savings in the conception, design, and execution of programming for teens.—*Sarah Hart, Information Services Librarian, Children’s Services, Brampton Library, Ontario, Canada*