tion development in school library media centers.—Kathleen Fleming, Reference Coordinator, Science and Engineering Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan


As its title indicates, this book aims to describe the role of leaders and leadership in academic libraries. Chapters address several characteristics of leadership qualities, effectiveness, assessment, management theories, and incomplete reviews of the research literature. The editors do not relate these multifarious trends to higher education administration practices. In fact, the crucial relationship between higher education culture and the academic library is rarely addressed. Influential scholars and thinkers such as William Bergquist, Ernest Boyer, Clark Kerr, and Robert Birnbaum are not mentioned. Instead, the editors concentrate on conveying the more generic and popular interpretations of leadership as demonstrated in business and industry.

The book is divided into eighteen chapters, eleven of which were either written or co-written by the editors. Hernon often cites his own previously published work as a source. Chapter 8, “Library Directors’ Views on Leadership,” while offering some interesting first-hand accounts from eminent librarians, proves quite repetitive. Chapter 14, “Assessing Leadership Skills,” contains thirty footnotes, sixteen of which are ibidem. Chapter 17, “Managerial Leadership as an Area of Doctoral Study,” does not articulate an intellectual foundation; rather, it outlines the course work and rationale for a degree that is offered at the editors’ place of employment, Simmons College. Numerous copyediting mistakes suggest that the book was rushed to publication and not properly vetted by Libraries Unlimited’s editorial board.

Readers can glean some information from this volume if they are willing to look beyond its deficiencies, or if their research focuses on the corporate model of organizational leadership. Libraries with limited funds should carefully explore other options before purchasing.—Mike Matthews, Instructional Services Librarian, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana


In today’s library world, most staff members, managers and administrators would say that their library space is insufficient for what they want and need to accomplish. Even the library users will usually agree that while the space is usable, it does not allow the freedom to roam comfortably or display items in an attractive manner. To change this view of the physical space and to provide a more comfortable space for end users as well as staff, library administrators or board members may elect to reallocate space within the existing building or may even decide to add new space to the building. If this is the case, then the group responsible for this project should be required to read Managing Facilities for Results: Optimizing Space for Services. Managing Facilities for Results has been written for those libraries that have already established service to the public and have determined the service priorities of the library. This ensures that the building’s facilities are used to support the library’s goals instead of creating goals that fit the building’s footprint. Too often, the services that a library provides are provided because “that’s the way it’s always been,” or items are located in an unlikely space because “they’ve always been there.” This book takes these ideas into account and helps the reader rethink his or her way of seeing the layout of the facility.

Managing Facilities provides tools such as work forms, diagrams, conversion charts, and timelines that will assist the reader with completing a project successfully. Library administrators or project directors who are not architects will be pleased with the space planning and Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines that are located throughout the book. The countless details involved in project planning as outlined by this publication is a little daunting, but by following the model in the book, many questions and situations that would otherwise crop up unexpectedly are brought to the forefront of the project and handled in a rational manner.

This book is a must-have in every library that plans to renovate, add on, or reallocate spaces in its facility.—Candice Y. Gwin, Director of Library Services, Kirkwood Public Library, Kirkwood, Missouri.


James LaRue offers fresh advice on dealing with requests to pull books from public library collections. In an engaging, anecdotal style, LaRue recounts numerous examples of real-life intellectual freedom challenges he has encountered during his years as director of a Colorado library system.

Like most manuals on dealing with intellectual freedom challenges, this book begins with a chapter on the historical, philosophical, and legal contexts of intellectual freedom. But LaRue’s treatment of this background champions the library profession’s lofty “enduring values” in a down-to-earth, accessible tone. Also expected and present here are ideas on drafting collections policies that anticipate challenges and that can be used as tools in a review process.

LaRue advises preparation, but this book’s most important contribution is its emphasis on the establishment of trust. LaRue’s most practical advice, and the approach that informs all aspects of this text, is, “know your users”. LaRue advocates proactive community outreach to create mutual respect, to be drawn upon when emotional challenges inevitably arise. The examples of challenges in this book come from across the political and social spectrum, and LaRue’s sections on patterns