Library historians have long wished for a twentieth-century counterpart to Elizabeth Stone’s American Library Development (H. W. Wilson, 1977), a thick chronology that covers colonial times through 1899. Although George Bobinski’s Libraries and Librarianship does not provide that level of detail, it is a very welcome outline.

Technology is an obvious theme for this time period, yet Bobinski reminds us that other “core” areas of librarianship have also changed. Themes include the growth of state libraries and interlibrary cooperation, federal funding, intellectual freedom, diversity in library employees, standardization, and LIS education. Reading the book, one realizes that many features of our everyday work evolved only recently.

The author is well qualified to write on this subject. Bobinski’s other books, Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development (ALA, 1969) and the Dictionary of American Library Biography (coedited with Bohdan Wynar and Jesse Hauk Shera, Libraries Unlimited, 1978) are still favorites. Like the Carnegie book, Libraries and Librarianship’s brief text is peppered with names, organizations, dates, and tables. For instance, a list of “Prominent Leaders in the Field of Libraries and Librarianship” comprises one chapter, and a ten-page chronology appears in an appendix. In compiling the book, Bobinski drew upon the ALA Yearbook, Bowker Annual, and the Whole Library Handbook, as well as published articles and handbooks. One only wishes that there were endnotes in addition to the bibliography.

Recent works examine some of Bobinski’s topics in much greater depth. Examples include John Y. Cole and Jane B. Aikin’s Encyclopedia of the Library of Congress (Bernan, 2004), Robert S. Freeman and David M. Hovde’s Libraries to the People: Histories of Outreach (McFarland, 2003), and Toni Samek’s Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility in American Librarianship, 1967–1974 (McFarland, 2001). Yet there does not appear to be a broad survey of the intellectual, financial, organizational, social, and technical history of the profession for the second half of the twentieth century. Therefore Libraries and Librarianship may be a good student text for graduate courses covering recent American library history. It is also a worthwhile read for new historians and practitioners who wish to understand their colleagues and environment more deeply.—Bernadette A. Lear, Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, Pennsylvania.


Written for public library board members, this book lays out the basic issues facing public libraries in clear language for easy reading. This guide will appeal to busy board members needing specific information on a specific topic, such as disaster planning, and library directors wanting to clarify the relationship between directors and boards. The book address the most crucial issues facing library boards, such as risk management, materials challenges, and funding. Chapters are filled with current examples, such as the fate of libraries in Hurricane Katrina’s path and what this has taught us about library disaster planning. The authors do not shy away from the thorny problems of boards in conflict or contentious relationships with directors. They address these difficult topics head-on and give practical advice that library boards and directors would do well to follow. The companion Web site provides downloadable forms to use in conjunction with the book.—Rebecca Montaño-Smith, Librarian, Village Branch, Lexington (Ky.) Public Library


This useful book is the second volume in the Good Policy, Good Practice series edited by Kirsti Nelson and Martin Dowding. It expands upon the issues and practices the authors explored in their 1996 book, Library Collection Development Policies: A Reference and Writers’ Handbook. As collection development is one of the most intellectually challenging components of librarianship, it comes as no surprise that the expansion of the topic has gone from being covered by a single title to becoming a part of a series on the subject (the first title in the series is Library Collection Development Policies: Academic, Public and Special Libraries). Additionally, the ubiquity of electronic resources and their many collection development issues also merits extended coverage.

In writing this book, the authors examined hundreds of collection development policies from school library media centers across the country. For all issues involved in collection development, the authors first provide an overview of the collection development issue and provide sample policies taken from among the many school library media centers policies examined. These issues include collection development policy, selection aids, weeding, and collection evaluation, among others; also included is a bibliography for a collection development policy.

This section of the work is followed by chapters concerned with the ethical and legal issues arising from the use of electronic resources. This chapter also includes sample policies. The chapters on virtual collection development and policy components of virtual resources are longer chapters that both provide background information and address the issues from a broader perspective.

The work has two appendices: one is a list of the schools (including contact information) that were used as sample policies in the work, and the other lists ALA documents often included in collection development policies.

Because it includes information on the unique issues related to electronic resources, this title would be useful for both experienced and new librarians responsible for collect-
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.

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