

## SOURCES

This book is full of useful information for librarians who are new to booktalking or those busy librarians who need a reliable, up-to-date young adult literature resource. The short introduction gives the reader an overview of the layout of the book and the notations used in the bibliographic information. The book is divided into seven genres, which are further divided into more specific topics. Each topic contains at least four books associated with it. Schall has included detailed information about each book to aid the librarian in the decision-making process and the actual booktalk itself. Each entry includes bibliographic information, themes or topics, and a summary or description. The author also includes a complete booktalk script for those who are not sure what to include or who are looking for something at a moment's notice. Also included is a list of related works, helpful for assisting patrons who would like something similar or for developing ideas for displays. Each entry contains five passages that have been selected to be read aloud to elicit reader response and discussion. Schall has even included several extension activities that are related to the book.

With the abundance of young adult literature that has been published in the last few years, it is easy to miss out on some wonderful books. The wealth of information included with each title makes this book invaluable to librarians as a booktalking or collection development tool. The organization of the book is extraordinary. The table of contents makes the book user-friendly and easy to navigate. The index includes both author names and titles. The only disappointment was that a few authors like Scott Westerfeld, Ellen Wittlinger, and Carolyn Mackler were not included. Overall, this is a book that is highly recommended for those working with teen readers to use for booktalks or reader's advisory.—*Melanie Wachsmann, Media Specialist, Cypress Ridge High School, Houston, Texas*

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***The Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland.*** Ed. by Peter Hoare. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 2006. 3 vols. \$495 (ISBN-13: 978-0-521-85808-3; ISBN-10: 0-521-85808-9).

Given the extent of recent change in access to and delivery of information, the two thousand pages of *The Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland* offer one a valuable opportunity to appreciate actions and circumstances impacting one group of libraries over a long period of time. Through comparison and extrapolation, these tomes add perspective on the role and functioning of American libraries today.

The first volume, edited by Elisabeth Leedham-Green and Teresa Webber, treats the period from the Middle Ages to 1640, tracing the transition from book collections to more formally organized and managed libraries. Prior to the advent of printing, book collecting was largely the domain of religious institutions, universities, and wealthy individuals. With the rise of printing and the Reformation, books became more accessible and libraries more distributed among parishes, schools, professional groups and individuals. By the mid-

seventeenth century the foundations for national libraries had also been laid.

The second volume, edited by Giles Mandelbrote and K. A. Manley, treats the period from 1640 to 1850 and considers issues ranging from the damaging effects of the English Civil War to the formation of a mass reading public. Of particular significance was the creation of the British Museum through the consolidation of national reference collections in the middle of this period. Attention is also given to British libraries abroad, serving British settlers, garrisons, and merchants.

The third volume, edited by Alistair Black and Peter Hoare, picks up with the adoption of the Public Libraries Act in 1850 and continues through the year 2000. In addition to the greater access to free libraries, the volume treats the increasing industrialization of libraries, where libraries of all varieties often sought to serve a mass market with efficiency. Interestingly, the authors' treatment of this history shifts methodologically from the previous volumes, mirroring a shift in librarianship "from a scholarly craft to a scientific profession" (3:i).

The work is available only as a fairly pricy three-volume set. But each volume complements the others nicely, allowing for treatment of individual topics, such as public libraries or the idea of a national library, across a broad expanse of history. Like *Histoire des bibliothèques françaises* (Promodis-Éditions du Cercle de la Librairie, 1988–1992), this set offers a good comparative tool and contributes an important perspective to the "history of the book." One hopes that *The Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland* will inspire a comparably unifying and authoritative treatment of libraries in the United States.

The set is highly recommended both as a professional resource and a historical work, but its price will understandably impact its inclusion in many library collections.—*Daniel F. Boomhower, Performing Arts Librarian, Kent State University*

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***A Day in the Life: Career Options in Library and Information Science.*** Ed. by Priscilla K. Shontz and Richard A. Murray. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 443 p. \$45.00 (ISBN 1591583640).

Many who are considering pursuing a master's degree in library and information science are unaware of the wide variety of career possibilities the degree offers. Until now, one's internship and career ideas were sometimes limited to what one knows and by word of mouth—finding out what others have done.

*A Day in the Life* fills this gap with ninety-five chapters dedicated to as many different jobs. Shontz and Murray have gathered a diverse selection of career options available for those with an MLS, and each chapter is written by a person working in the position covered. Public, academic, school, and special librarianship are represented, as well as positions with consortia, library schools, vendors, publishers, associations and agencies, and other nontraditional arenas.