

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*

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*

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.

With ninety-five contributors, there is a danger that the writing might be uneven, but Shontz and Murray have done a fine editing job. Each entry retains the individual flair and character of the contributor, yet the detail and quality of writing is even throughout.

Several other books, such as *Straight from the Stacks* (ALA, 2003) and *What Else You Can Do with a Library Degree* (Neal-Schuman, 1997), explore the variety of library work, but they generally focus more on individual librarians (their personal backgrounds and experiences) whose jobs are being described than on the jobs themselves.

A Day in the Life focuses more directly on the various jobs and less on the individuals who hold them. Each chapter consists of a three- to five-page entry that includes a job description, information on how one could obtain a similar position, and a brief bibliography of related resources, as well as a description of a typical workday and the pros and cons of that particular position.

This book would be an excellent source for library and information science students and is recommended for libraries in institutions that grant library and information science degrees.—*Heather Hill, doctoral student, University of Missouri, Columbia.*

Graphic Novels: A Genre Guide to Comic Books, Manga, and More. Michael Pawuk. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 633 p. \$65 (ISBN 1-59158-132-X).

Graphic novels are everywhere right now, but because of their popularity it can be overwhelming to know where to look when adding them to library collections. Pawuk's guide provides just what is needed: a place to find summaries of more than 2,400 titles and to gain insight into which graphic novels that are worth reading. Not since D. Aviva Rothschild's *Graphic Novels: A Bibliographic Guide to Book Length Comics* (Libraries Unlimited, 1995) has a bibliography of this scope been released. This book is not an introduction to the format or a volume of recommended titles, but it will provide librarians with many choices when updating their collections.

The volume covers titles in nine topical categories. Each entry includes descriptions of major plot points, characters, and an age recommendation. For those interested in learning more about the format, *Graphic Novels* contains appendixes on additional resources, publishers, and Web sites where librarians and readers can find more information. Titles included in this bibliography are indexed by author, illustrator, title, and subject, which makes easy work of finding a particular volume when needed. In the author's attempt to remain neutral when presenting titles, sex, violence, and language are not discussed. Librarians may need to find professional review sources for volumes of interest to better assess these qualities.

Graphic Novels provides a valuable introduction to this format for librarians and readers who don't know where to start. It summarizes the classic titles and little-known treasures that should be in every library collection, and also

covers an amazing variety of topics and characters. One drawback of the bibliography format is that it will become outdated as more graphic novels are published. Beyond that, though, the biggest weakness of *Graphic Novels* is its organization; multiple fonts and levels of indentation confuse the reader and make the text look messy. Even after viewing page after page of this book, it is difficult to understand the reason for all the variation. Aside from this distraction, however, this volume is recommended for public libraries, as well as school and academic libraries looking to add graphic novels to their collections.—*Katy Herrick, Manager, Kettle Falls Public Library, Kettle Falls, Washington*

The Guy-Friendly YA Library: Serving Male Teens. Rollie James Welch. Westport, Conn. Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 196 p. \$40 (ISBN 1-59158-270-9).

Welch, currently the Teen Coordinator for the Cleveland Public Library, has worked with teens for twenty-six years. His purpose with this book is to give every librarian working with male teens a game plan for engaging this normally underserved population. Beginning with how to redefine the attitudes of library staff, the author also suggests strategies to sell teen services to administration. Welch discusses male teen development and shares insight on how teens respond to others. This chapter alone makes the book well worth its price. Welch then delves into the diverse reading habits of these readers. Starting with the important characteristics of books that appeal to male teens, the author discusses the type of genre reading this group is interested in. Included are "Quick five" boxes, highlighting five titles of interest to teens in each category. Another great resource is the appendix of "Essential Fiction Titles or Series for Males." By discussing what doesn't work for teens, Welch examines how to engage teens through programming and how to develop gender-friendly teen advisory boards. Outreach through booktalking and school visits are discussed as means to get teen readers into the library. Welch finishes his discussion by focusing on how and what makes the teen area appealing and welcoming to guys. Although other books cover some of this same area, none give the insights Welch provides by focusing his book on the male teenager.

The Guy-Friendly YA Library is not just for the teen or YA librarian. The material in this book ought to be read by any librarian who comes in contact with teens in the library. The author suggests ways for public and school librarians to work together and how school librarians can specifically engage this age group. This book will give the experienced librarian new and fresh ideas, and the new librarian a great strategy to follow in building a "guy-friendly library."—*Jenny Foster Stenis, Coordinator, Children's Services, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma*

Libraries and Librarianship: Sixty Years of Challenge and Change, 1945–2005. George S. Bobinski. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2007. 203 p. \$40 (ISBN 978-0-8108-5899-2).