All Patrons” (emphasis added), Mates notes that while certain technologies may be aimed at patrons with special needs, often times, patrons without such needs can also use and benefit from said technologies. For example, a large print keyboard or a so-called senior mouse can be utilized by all.

Recognizing that libraries need to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations, yet are frequently caught in the current economic crunch, many of the devices and procedures suggested by Mates and Reed are cost-effective and require only basic staff training for awareness. Mates emphasizes the importance of communicating with all library staff concerning the use of assistive technologies, reminding readers that it is not helpful for patrons to be told that staff doesn’t know how to use the available resources.

Some of the recommendations are more costly to implement: JAWS (Job Access With Speech), “the most popular screen reader, is expensive” (46). Mates urges librarians to remember that if assistive technologies like JAWS are costly for libraries, they are likely beyond the personal means of many patrons who need such resources.

The timing of this reviewer’s receipt of the book was fortuitous, as the library at which she works has received bequest funds to aid visually impaired patrons. The myriad resources recommended in this book helped the reviewer and her colleagues develop a wish list for the expenditure of these funds and gave them ideas for implementing no-cost and low-cost tools and technologies, including Microsoft accessibility features (50). Librarians are reminded that Friends of Libraries groups are likely supporters of requests for moderately priced assistive technologies.

Assistive Technologies in the Library is a “must have on hand” field guide for frontline librarians. It is worth reading cover to cover. However, librarians with limited time should at least review the one page synopsis, “Ten Items Libraries Should Put on the Front Burner” (165) and visit ASCLA’s website to review the tip sheet. Well worth the cover price, this book is recommended for all libraries.—Lisa Powell Williams, Adult Services Coordinator, Moline (Ill.) Public Library.


Authors Lynda M. Kellam (Data Services and Government Information Librarian at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro) and Katharin Peter (Social Sciences Data Librarian at the Von KleinSmid Center Library for International and Public Affairs at the University of Southern California) have produced the first book on this new subspecialty within academic librarianship. Data librarianship has emerged from the increasing ease of online access to numerical data. Offering services in this new area requires librarians to know about both old sources (for example, U.S. Census information) and emerging sources and at times even to synthesize numerical information. The book contains an introduction to numeric data services; a list of steps for developing, implementing, and evaluating a data services reference program; perspectives on reference, instruction, and the future of numeric information; and an annotated list of sources; and a sketch of “a day in the life” of a numeric data services librarian. The book’s description of the development and implementation of numeric data services would serve as a good refresher for a manager interested in developing any new library service. “A day in the life” includes interview answers from nineteen data librarians to questions such as “What is the one thing you wish you had known about being a data librarian when you started your position?” and “What would you tell a new librarian who is starting a career in data librarianship?” The comprehensiveness of the annotated list of sources is impressive. More than thirty sources are organized geographically and by compiler type (governmental or nongovernmental), and each receives a thorough and useful description. Although this book is scholarly, the writing style is imbued with fun and enthusiasm. At $80, this excellent paperback is pricey, but libraries that