

SOURCES

ration. Sauers begins with a screenshot-packed chapter on setting up a Delicious.com account to organize information using tags. He then progresses into other chapters on using popular search engines, making the most of Wikipedia, and searching for specific types of information. Sauers also acknowledges the varying opinions surrounding Wikipedia and encourages librarians to appreciate and utilize the tool, noting that its error rate is similar to that of *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

In later chapters, Sauers dives into Flickr, YouTube, and Podscope and covers techniques for searching for local information, print materials, and even archived information using Google cache, the Wayback Machine, and Wikipedia's page histories. Sauers offers ways for readers to get even more out of the 2.0 world by using the tools he suggests in the remaining chapters on using OpenSearch, downloadable desktop search applications, and data visualization, which he believes to be the future of searching.

Sauers does an excellent job of covering the intricate details of the advanced features in all the tools mentioned throughout the book and even provides excellent hands-on exercises at the end of most chapters. However, screen shots are frequently large and superabundant, often requiring the reader to flip back and forth between the images and the text. In addition, Microsoft LiveSearch is now Bing and has a different interface, so screenshots of LiveSearch are now obsolete, demonstrating that the in-depth coverage and large number of screenshots of a specific tool may not be as helpful as a general discussion about the benefits in using a particular tool.

Despite these minor drawbacks, this book is one of the best and most thorough ones available on this topic today. Sauers also has a companion site, <http://delicious.com/travelinlibrarian/searching2.0>, which makes it easy to get access to all of the shiny new toys presented in his book.

Overall, the information presented in this book, coupled with Sauers's engaging writing style and inherent enthusiasm, not only leaves the reader eager to experiment with all the tools mentioned, but also provides ample justification for using Web 2.0 tools in one's public or academic library services.—*Rachel Vacek, Head of Web Services, University of Houston Libraries, Houston, Texas*

Serving Boys through Readers' Advisory. Michael Sullivan. Chicago: ALA, 2010. 152p. \$48 (ISBN 978-0-8389-1022-1).

Many public librarians have had the experience of being summoned to a local school to present a booktalk, only to find that, afterwards, the girls grab up all the books. How can librarians entice boys as well as girls? "Don't Panic!" says Michael Sullivan, quoting the words emblazoned on Douglas Adams's *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* in reference to readers' advisory for boys. Sullivan's latest book, *Serving Boys through Readers' Advisory*, provides all the information a librarian needs to engage boys with books. After discussing some of the differences between boys' and girls' reading behaviors, he launches into a discussion of the characteristics of what boys read and what he dubs "boys' lit."

Sullivan devotes two chapters to the readers' advisory interview, including an insightful discussion of the differences between readers' advisory with just the parents as opposed to readers' advisory with the parent and child together. Sullivan covers aspects of marketing books indirectly through bookmarks, e-mail, blogs, and social networking sites such as Goodreads. Sullivan shows how to give effective booktalks with great "grab 'em" strategies.

The most exciting part of the book is the booktalks themselves: chapters full of ready-to-share booktalks of new, classic, and favorite books for elementary, middle, and high school boys. These booktalks grab the attention of boys—and girls as well. Librarians should be sure to have many copies of the books on hand when they finish the talk.

The book concludes with a variety of book lists organized by genre and divided into sections for elementary, middle, and high school ages. These chapters are useful for those times when one has run out of ideas for the next read. Books with lists such as these sometimes feel out-of-date soon after being published, but new titles from 2009, including up-and-coming popular authors, are included in these lists.

The insight and knowledge imparted by this book will enable librarians to create their own great booktalks to engage boys. It is appropriate not only for school and public librarians who work with boys; this book, as well as *Connecting Boys with Books 2*, will give every librarian in a public setting better insight into this underserved population.—*Jenny Foster Stenis, Coordinator, Children's Services, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma*

The Social Transcript: Uncovering Library Philosophy. Charles Osburn. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2008. 335p. \$45 (ISBN 978-1-59158-758-3).

Charles Osburn, dean and professor emeritus of the University of Alabama Libraries, has written a demanding, compelling, and original philosophical essay on the role of the library in human civilization. He posits that a sound and comprehensive library philosophy can be attained only by examining the unique function of the library as the container of what is termed the "social transcript." An idea first developed by the sociologist Kenneth Boulding, the social transcript is the record of human cognition and action, as embodied in language and transmitted in the form of concrete knowledge. The purpose of the social transcript is to provide the necessary contextual framework for each succeeding generation of humans, thus enabling the intellectual evolution of the species. Without the transcript, human civilization would be like an amnesiac who must relearn every aspect of his existence at every moment of his life. Because the library encloses and preserves the transcript, it is the technology—*sine qua non*—that brings shape and meaning to our collective worldview.

The book consists of three sections divided into multiple chapters. The first section of the book, "Siting the Philosophy," reviews the history of library philosophy and several brilliant but failed attempts to synthesize the quotidian tasks

of librarianship with the broad aims of the library as a cultural technology. Osburn ingeniously maneuvers around the horns of this debate by emphasizing the study of the library as an object, rather than trying to articulate a library philosophy from a strictly subjective (i.e., librarian's) point of view. The second section, "A Creation of Culture for the Mind," defines the function of the library as a physical extension of the mind in which is encoded a composite of civilization's myriad texts. The third section, "Convergence of Mind, Society, and Evolution in Library Philosophy," integrates the conceptual structure with the mission of libraries and librarians, who serve as the stewards of the social transcript in all of its variant forms—whether online, paper, vellum, or clay tablet.

Osburn's thesis is sometimes obscured by his erudite style and many citations. He draws upon works in multiple disciplines and cites complex social and biological theories. As a result, the reader may sometimes feel dizzyingly overwhelmed. *The Social Transcript* is essential for universities with LIS doctoral programs and an optional purchase for professional reading.—Mike Matthews, *Instructional Services Librarian, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana*

Urban Teens in the Library: Research and Practice. Denise E. Agosto and Sandra Hughes-Hassell, eds. Chicago: ALA, 2010. 208p. \$60 (ISBN 978-0-8389-1015-3).

Defining who counts as an urban teen is not an easy task. The term "urban" can mean different things to different people. When looking at various definitions of the term, the editors note that many libraries, not just those in large cities, serve urban teens. In studying research on this topic, the

editors found that many urban teens have a negative view of libraries and librarians. They also learned that teens want a space in which they are welcomed, a collection that has books they want to read (and multiple copies of them), and a library staff that listens to their input about programming specifically for them. Using the research, Agosto and Hughes-Hassell provide support for developing a diverse collection that includes so-called "street lit," utilizing social networking, providing teens with health information, and developing a physical space specifically for teen patrons. The book also includes case studies of successful examples of service to urban teens from different areas of the United States.

Overall, the book reports on research about urban teens and their habits and ideas for libraries that serve them. The editors explore some of the negative aspects of urban life, such as socio-economic disadvantages and issues of racial inequality, but they also look at the positive aspects, such as cultural diversity. These are just some of the factors that librarians must consider and embrace when working with urban teens. The chapters on street lit and social media are especially helpful; they explain the history of these topics and explore how and why they are important to urban teens. Although it would have been useful to find a little more practical advice, this book provides a wealth of information about the situations of urban teens and their needs as well as ideas to encourage their use of libraries and books. This is a worthy purchase for any school or public library interested in reaching out to provide better service to urban teens.—Melanie Wachsmann, *Reference/Teen Librarian, Lone Star College-CyFair Branch, Cypress, Texas*