
The Whole Library Handbook 5. Ed. by George M. Eberhart. Chicago: ALA, 2013. 528 p. Paper \$50 (ISBN: 978-0-8389-1090-0).

True to its title, the latest edition of *The Whole Library Handbook* is a gateway to the most current issues in librarianship. Akin to a mini-encyclopedia, this handbook is a collection of short articles authored by librarian scholars, and it touches on everything from the history of the bookmobile to postmodernism in library instruction. The book's greatest strength is its accessibility and broad appeal. Everyone with an interest in libraries, from general readers to LIS students to professional librarians and administrators, will find something of value. Eberhart does an outstanding job of balancing coverage between new topics and core issues in librarianship and of discussing serious subjects alongside lighter matters. Expected topics, such as cultural awareness and intellectual freedom, are covered in appropriate depth. Contemporary topics that may be unfamiliar to students and nonprofessionals are discussed in the context of related topics and in such a

way that they become easier to understand. The book's article on RDA, for example, is included in the Operations chapter and follows the article on cataloging, so even those with little knowledge of cataloging can gain a basic understanding of RDA and how it is expected to affect libraries. Eberhart also covers topics that will be helpful to new graduates and professionals, including job hunting, the benefits of attending professional conferences, and ways to handle common problems, such as dealing with disruptive patrons. Many books that attempt to make a broad and disparate range of subjects accessible to professionals and general readers alike shortchange their readers by glossing over complex topics. Fortunately, Eberhart's guide manages to be well organized and easy to read while addressing each topic in a meaningful way. For those interested in exploring any of the book's topics in greater depth, citations of books written by article authors are included. Highly recommended for most libraries; essential for university libraries that serve LIS faculty and students.—*Allison Embry, Access Services and Distance Learning Librarian, Rogers State University, Claremore, Oklahoma*