library school students learning about different approaches to varying patron populations as well as public libraries serving large populations of older adults.—Lara Cummings, Instruction Librarian, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington


Library Director Sandra Feinberg and architect James Keller synergistically combine their experiences in Designing Space for Children and Teens in Libraries and Public Places. Their thorough handbook for creating successful library spaces for children and young adults systematically covers the practical steps of a redesign or renovation while exploring the necessary elements of communication, interactivity, and flexibility in creating a flourishing community space.

The authors explore architectural design theory in the context of early childhood development and the specific needs of adolescents. Recognizing that every project and population is unique, the book stresses the importance of including all stakeholders and emphasizes adaptability. The authors’ extensive experience informs their design staff selection guidelines and their discussions of children’s and teens’ use of space. They address topics that librarians will face but may not be familiar with, such as carpet and wall treatments. They also cover practical financial, political, and administrative concerns, as well as post-renovation communication and considerations. Many useful checklists are included, and the authors illustrate their theories with examples from a diverse range of libraries. Carefully chosen photographs illustrate the concepts.

The book effectively addresses abstract concepts as well as the nitty-gritty particulars. It might have made more sense for the book to begin with its middle chapters, which deal with the more theoretical nature of architecture. The sample budget and planning rubrics are quite useful. Perhaps a future edition could contain a collection of blank forms as an appendix or online resource. The authors advise readers to conduct a literature review but do not formally address the extent works on the subject; this, too, could be an advantageous addition to a future edition.

This book belongs in libraries supporting current and future librarians, as well as architecture libraries. Library staff facing a renovation must read this book, which fills a niche covered only by scholarly articles and a few books on broader topics.—Rachel Gould, Children’s Resources and Services Librarian, Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library, Watertown, Massachusetts


Leadership and management are essential to the success of any organization. In this collaboration, Stueart and Sullivan address “organizations and individuals who seek to prepare the next generation of leaders in the information services arena” (ix). Spanning eight chapters and covering various topics in management and leadership, the authors deliver a template that is useful to large units and teams within an information center as well as smaller institutions with limited staff and resources.

The first two chapters provide key background information on the definitions and evolution of leadership and a leader’s roles and responsibilities. Some of the topics covered in this section are the challenges and opportunities of leadership, partnerships between leaders and staff, key theories and models with application to information services, and ways to engage and motivate staff for high performance. In addressing leaders’ roles and responsibilities, the authors provide helpful checklists covering many aspects of leadership, such as key competencies for effective leadership, techniques for establishing confidence, and ethical leadership practices, as well as tips on developing skills and self-confidence.

Another portion of the book provides in-depth coverage of the strategies needed for effective leadership. The authors identify the key elements essential for successful leaders: leaders must be able to influence and persuade others, build and lead groups and teams, manage projects, coach staff, and mentor colleagues and future leaders. Although influencing and persuading skills help leaders establish credibility and connect emotionally with their subordinates, coaching and mentoring add passion to teamwork and instill values that propel the entire organization forward.

The book is written clearly and will be useful to everyone from the novice manager to the seasoned leader. The activities in each chapter are easy to follow and provide good templates for future group and team interactions. Overall, this book is recommended to all librarians and information providers who wish to develop their leadership skills and their team interactions with other members of their respective organizations.—Artemida Kabashi, Continuing Education Librarian, Amigos Library Services, Dallas, Texas


Over the course of its eight editions, the Intellectual Freedom Manual (IFM) from ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom has positioned itself as an authoritative reference work for librarians at all levels. This has made it one of the primary resources used in determining library policies across disparate institutions, as well as an oft-cited glimpse into the tortuous cultural battle lines often drawn directly through libraries nationwide.

Although a good portion of the previous volume has been carried over into the current one, the eighth edition nevertheless expands and supplements the seventh with new material on issues that have arisen or become more keenly felt since the latter’s 2006 publication. While the older material remains as relevant as ever, the new material bears commenting on.