Musical Instruments (Oxford Univ. Pr., 1992). Some more recent, lavishly illustrated titles are Lucie Rault's coffee-table volume *Musical Instruments: Craftsmanship and Traditions from Prehistory to the Present* (Abrams, 2000) and Abrashev and Gadjev's excellent *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Musical Instruments* (Könemann, 2000).

Montagu is clearly a renowned scholar of musical instruments and their development, but I found his book to be a difficult read, perhaps because of the formality of his British English prose. Because of that, and the indexing errors, I suggest that libraries with limited funds purchase one of the competing volumes listed above instead.—*Mark Palkovic, Head Librarian, College-Conservatory of Music Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio*

Professional Materials
Karen Antell
Editor

Academic Librarianship by Design: A Blended Librarian's Guide to the Tools and Techniques. Stephen J. Bell and John D. Shank. Chicago: ALA, 2007. 171p. $50 (ISBN 0-8389-0939-6).

The foreword to this book begins with a famous quote from Charles Dickens in *The Tale of Two Cities:* "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." This speaks to the changing times in the digital age and their impact on academic librarianship. To be effective, academic librarians must combine instructional design theory with traditional information literacy techniques. This dynamic combination is known as "blended librarianship." By detailing several theories of instructional design, an education-based practice, Bell and Shank challenge their peers in academic librarianship to become blended librarians, and to incorporate elements of instructional design in all their information products.

The concepts of design, implementation, and evaluation may be familiar to most librarians, but *Academic Librarianship by Design* outlines unique applications to information literacy and library instruction. The authors remind their readers that academic librarians have a responsibility to their patrons as teachers of information literacy. The importance of a process, the authors stress, is key to successful instructional design. Implementation is no good without feedback from the user. Bell and Shank focus on the well-known ADDIE model—Analyze, Design/Develop, Implement, and Evaluate—while encouraging collaboration between faculty members and librarians when designing information products.

Beginning with definitions of instructional design and blended librarianship, the authors build on these concepts in various contexts, from in-person instruction to the use of course management systems. Each of the nine chapters begins with an outline of objectives, followed by explanations, case studies, discussion questions, and additional resources. Bell and Shank realize that each librarian will incorporate his or her own techniques in the practice of blended librarianship. The straightforward writing style and the inclusion of real examples of theory in practice make this a must-have for any academic librarian's collection.—*Rebecca Weber, Reference Department Intern, University of Oklahoma Libraries, Norman*

Barbarians at the Gates of the Public Library: *How Postmodern Consumer Capitalism Threatens Democracy, Civil Education and the Public Good.* Ed D'Angelo. Duluth, Minn.: Library Juice Press, 2006. 139p. $18 (ISBN 0-9778617-1-6).

If there is a single thread unifying the library and information profession today, it seems to be an undercurrent of anxiety about the future of libraries and librarianship. Mass digitization projects, e-mail and chat reference, and the "Library 2.0" movement are just a few of the ways librarians are dancing as fast as they can to keep up with the pace of information. In our rush to maintain relevance and "sell" ourselves to the patrons whom we now call "customers," there is little time to consider whether or not this strategy of marketing libraries is the best or only way for libraries to proceed. In *Barbarians at the Gates of the Public Library: How Postmodern Consumer Capitalism Threatens Democracy, Civil Education and the Public Good,* librarian and philosopher Ed D'Angelo argues that by pandering to the expectations of consumer society, libraries are acting against their history, their purpose, and the good of society and democracy.

D'Angelo contextualizes his argument by tracing the histories of libraries and democracy back to such figures as Plato, Hobbes, and Mill to demonstrate the rise and fall of the public library as the essential foundation of democracy. In the twelve chapters of this brief book, D'Angelo convincingly demonstrates how public libraries have been commercialized to comply with the overwhelming forces of what John De Graaf terms "affluenza, a painful, contagious, socially-transmitted condition of overload, debt, anxiety, and waste resulting from the dogged pursuit of more" (*Affluenza: The All Consuming Epidemic*, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2005). D'Angelo makes a strong case for the ways the decline of the public library both portends and parallels the decline of democracy and civil society.

The elegance and scope of this book and the questions it raises make it a valuable addition to library literature and theory. But this value is diminished by the ways D'Angelo seems to fall into the easy trap of positing "high culture" over and against "popular culture" in his critique, leaving his position vulnerable to all of the arguments that postmodern literary theory has made against this false hegemony. The many legitimate points he makes about the interactions between libraries, economic factors, and American society are undermined by his stodginess and predictions of doom. In this book, D'Angelo seems to fail to look forward, exhibiting wistfulness for the "good old days" of librarianship without proposing viable ways to combat the erosion of postmodern consumer capitalism under the real conditions contemporary libraries face.

Barbarians at the Gates can be compared to other books on the history and purpose of libraries like Matthew Battles's