in other countries, and often there is a limited number of each title published, making them hard to get or replace.

The book also offers a collection of ideas for all levels of programming, from a basic introduction to libraries in the United States to literacy programs, programs for children, cultural celebrations, and programs that connect new immigrants. A chapter devoted to “Outreach and Publicity” includes useful how-to information for developing library signage and promotional materials and using social networks. The final chapter is about making the library accessible for the Latino community and culture, with a focus on language and how to position the library to serve in the community. Byrd also includes lists of distributors, wholesalers, and publishers for books and nonprint material.

Packed with excellent information for public libraries, this book is a wonderful collection of ideas for getting started, but it also provides steps for libraries already on this path. It is a must-have.—Alicia Smith, Branch Manager, Purcell Public Library, Pioneer Library System, Oklahoma


Early in her book, Burning Books and Leveling Libraries, Rebecca Knuth states that “[t]he history of modern book and library destruction is one of collision between liberal humanists and extremists” (23). It may seem odd to claim that the notion of modern “biblioclasm” is a product of the Enlightenment. Knuth, however, does make this case, and she views the destruction of books as vandalism through the lens of sociology. Of course, books had been a target of destruction long before eighteenth-century Europe; the Library of Alexandria is probably the best-known example. Before the Enlightenment, books and libraries were reserved for the elite. Once the idea of cultural heritage as public property became widespread, libraries and the ideas contained within became more potent symbols of cultures and communities.

In times of warfare and social violence, books and libraries can become targets of destruction for various reasons. The motivation may be tactical; however, more frequently it is ideological. The first case study Knuth presents occurred in Amsterdam in 1984. Anti-apartheid protestors coordinated an attack on the library of the South African Institute under the misguided notion that its existence supported the government of South Africa. While the library did house literature and documents supporting apartheid, its collection was much more general and held a great number of rare and unique documents spanning centuries, and the protestors made no distinction in their destruction. The loss was devastating to researchers, including those of pro- and anti-apartheid stances. To the chagrin of the protestors, this act was widely condemned and allowed some apartheid supporters to paint their opponents as fanatics. In this event, no one was physically hurt, not even the library’s dog. Knuth uses this attack to show that libraries can be destroyed in the name of a “good” cause.

The rest of the book presents more case studies of biblioclasm from the previous century. Unfortunately these events diverge from the incident in the Netherlands in that they precede or accompany a great loss of human life as well. Knuth is very thorough in her exploration of cultural conflicts in such places as Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Kashmir, Iraq, and elsewhere. While the focus is on the motivation of those leaders and regimes that target books and libraries, their destruction is often overshadowed by the tragedy of human loss.

While Burning Books and Leveling Libraries may not have a place in a reference collection, it is a recommended addition for academic libraries that support LIS schools. Additionally, with its in-depth research and extensive resources this book is a good complement to history and sociology collections.—Daniel Spencer, Librarian, FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center Library, Oklahoma City


The field of cataloging is rapidly changing in the twenty-first century. Web sites proliferate and require new cataloging treatments, cataloging tools have migrated to the Internet, and standards and classification schedules are constantly under revision. Arlene Taylor’s revised ninth edition of Introduction to Cataloging and Classification (2004) was highly praised for being an up-to-date guide to cataloging. Her tenth edition continues this tradition. Taylor covers the AACR2R (Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 2nd ed. rev.), MARC21, Dewey Decimal Classification (22nd ed.), current Library of Congress classifications, the latest on the Library of Congress subject headings, and the Sears List of Subject Headings (18th ed.). In addition to the substantial text, the book contains an appendix on “Arrangement Dilemmas and Filing Rules,” a glossary of terms, a bibliography, and an index. All of the chapters, the bibliography, and the glossary have been revised; only the appendix has not been revised. Each chapter has footnote references and a list of suggested readings for further study.

The organization of this book is logical, and the treatment of the subject is thorough. Definitions and explanation are clear and informative. Figures (in “Part III: Description and Access”) have clear illustrations of the object, the OPAC display, and the MARC21 records in order to illustrate selected AACR2R. Taylor also refers readers to AACR2R and the Cataloging Service Bulletin when appropriate. In her preface, Taylor states that this “revision is now as up-to-date as possible given the constraints of human understanding and the passage of time between writing and publication” (xv). As stated, the world of cataloging is currently experiencing rapid changes. Taylor’s information on the RLG (Research Libraries Group) Union Catalog will soon be out-of-date, as RLG and