

SOURCES

David Wright states in his article, "Library Consortia: Do the Models Always Work?" that "librarians must be creative in seeking solutions. . . . It takes work, but it is possible to change existing structures to improve access to information" (59). This volume helps motivate us to "play a critical role" (Kranich, p. 94) in our communities beyond our library walls.—*Emma Duncan, Branch Manager, Brampton Library, Brampton, Ontario, Canada*

The Library As Place: History, Community, and Culture. Ed. by John E. Buschman and Gloria J. Leckie. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 260p. \$50 (ISBN 1-59158-382-9).

In an exploration of how libraries are more than the resources that they contain, Wayne A. Wiegard and John Carlo Bertot, coeditors of *Library Quarterly*, had determined to devote a special issue to libraries as place. The great amount of received submissions led to this present work of fourteen essays, each focusing on different aspects of library as place, and there is quite a bit to say on the topic. Buschman and Leckie's introduction does a fine job of critically situating the concept of place and space and the library as place, grounding the subject historically within scholarship, touching on theories of space espoused by Newton, Descartes, and Locke as well as theories of place supported by Alexander von Humboldt, Walter Christaller, and others, and charting how discourses have changed, through feminism, Marxism, or humanism, for example, in addition to a description of the concept of the public sphere. What emerges from the introduction is a very thorough picture of the issues at play in a discussion of place and space.

That picture becomes somewhat disjointed, however, when looking at the book as a whole. Much of the theory covered in the introduction does not get addressed again in any of the essays. In addition, the book is divided into four sections—"The Library's Place in the Past," "Libraries As Places of Community," "Research Libraries As Places of Learning and Scholarship," and "Libraries, Place, and Culture"—the effect of which is that the essays seem oddly placed existing together in the same book: essays contained therein address such topics as military libraries in the British Empire, Carnegie libraries in both Vancouver and Greensboro, knitting and storytime groups in a public library, private scholarly spaces within academic libraries, the erotic nature of reading, and the fantasy library of the television series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. In addition, some essays would likely fit well in more than one of the sections, making their placement feel somewhat arbitrary. The editors are well aware of this fact, however, justifying the book's structure with the idea that the subject has been overlooked in scholarship for too long, leaving little recourse but to cover the subject rather broadly. The perspectives represented in this book do feel fresh and timely, despite the disordered feeling one gets from the volume. And, it should be pointed out, in approaching a subject as all-encompassing as place and space, perhaps a cluttered impression is the best that can be hoped for, and the assign-

ment of essays to particular sections can be understood as an attempt to at least try and maintain some sort of order.

It also should be pointed out that the essays in this book strongly focus on English-speaking countries, primarily the United States and Canada, but also a bit on Great Britain. This fact is not unexpected, especially given the breadth of material contained, as an even larger focus would likely be unwieldy. However, it would be very interesting to see future scholarship examining the topic of libraries as place and space from the points of view of other nations.

It could be argued that the fretting over libraries as place and space, in particular, reflects librarianship's current insecurities regarding its importance, function, and meaning in the current world, and its fears for its own place in the future. *The Library As Place* is a fine jumping-off point for a first exploration of these concerns, in spite of its structural issues.—*Sarah McHone-Chase, Information Delivery Services Librarian, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois*

Library Juice Concentrate. Rory Litwin. Duluth, Minn.: Library Juice Pr., 2006. 238p. \$25 (ISBN 0-977816-3-6).

Selectors who are unfamiliar with this title and take only a cursory glance might dismiss it as a vanity publication (as the book is, essentially, self-published). However, *Library Juice* is one of very few serials that delves deeply into current philosophical and social issues within librarianship. *Library Juice Concentrate* is a rare print copy of this resource.

Library Juice began in January 1998 as an electronic magazine edited and published by Litwin. It ceased publication in autumn 2005, but was recently revived as a blog (see www.libraryjuicepress.com/blog). A complete, searchable archive of *Library Juice* is freely available at <http://libr.org/juice>. For *Library Juice Concentrate*, Litwin selected a subset of "articles that [invite] readers to think a little bit more deeply, or at least a little differently, about questions in librarianship that are typically given ready-made but inconsequential and poorly thought-out answers" (xv). Thus, the book reprints about twenty articles, plus a selection of limericks, paper topics, quotations, and a reading list "for Progressive Librarians." Many of the essays are written by Litwin, but the work also includes contributions from Larry Oberg, Mark Rosenzweig, Jessamyn West, and others.

Library Juice Concentrate is written with an unapologetically left-wing perspective. As Kathleen de la Peña McCook (a member of the Library Juice Press advisory board) writes in the preface, *Library Juice* "captured the spirit of a time that began in great hope with the Clinton-Gore optimism for a new century with widely available information for all people and ended in a time of great despair with the oppressive regime of Bush-Cheney and the structure of the USA PATRIOT Act and CIPA" (xiii). In fact, Litwin feels that librarianship and socialism are "deeply compatible" (145), though modern collection development practices (heavy purchasing from media conglomerates), commercialization of library services, and other trends threaten this relationship. Yet Litwin and his co-