

means of incorporating them into the curriculum.—*Melanie Wachsmann, Reference/Teen Librarian, Lone Star College-CyFair Branch, Cypress, Texas*

---

**Implementing Cost-Effective Assistive Computer Technology: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians.** Jane Vincent. New York: Neal Schuman, 2011. 139 p. Paper \$64.95 (ISBN 978-1555707620).

As noted in this book's foreword, library assistive practices in "the old days" consisted mostly of referrals to the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (xi). Not until 1990, when the Americans with Disabilities Act passed, were libraries were compelled to begin meeting the needs of those who were probably most in need of library services. In the early days this might have consisted of ramps, accessible restrooms, and wider stack areas for most libraries, but as LSTA grant funding became available, assistive services began to include a much wider variety of technologies. *Implementing Cost-Effective Assistive Computer Technology* is a comprehensive collection covering the many different aspects of these assistive technologies.

Packed with practical resources, *Implementing Cost-Effective Assistive Computer Technology* includes ideas, worksheets, lists, and stories from libraries that have experience with particular assistive devices. According to Vincent, librarians at a variety of libraries were sought out and interviewed for suggestions and practical implementations that will help other libraries and other librarians. The book is organized into six chapters, beginning appropriately with the planning process not just for patrons with disabilities, but for "anyone who would benefit from assistive technology use" (xiv). This includes people with disabilities as well as some elderly people, children, people who don't consider themselves disabled, people with temporary disabilities, and those with beginning computer literacy skills. This chapter covers all aspects of the planning stages, including data gathering, formation of partnerships, and policy-making.

Following the lead of the first chapter, the next five chapters provide detailed coverage of the barriers and solutions associated with assistive technology, the selection of resources, budgeting, hardware and software compatibility, communication and marketing to the community, and finally maintenance to keep assistive technology resources up-to-date. The book is rounded out with an appendix that lists company information, a glossary, and a bibliography. Each chapter includes worksheets, checklists, templates, and useful anecdotes as well as a list of references.

Laid out in a style similar to many websites, with columns and sidebars, *Implementing Cost-Effective Assistive Computer Technology* is a highly recommended and comprehensive resource for any public library serving a diverse group of people. Communities considering library remodels or new branches should consider this a must-read. Academic and school libraries as well would benefit from the practical ideas, anecdotes, and materials. One drawback of

this resource is that the sidebars occasionally contain too much information on a given topic, making some pages appear cluttered. Another weakness is that the book frequently refers to Jane Vincent's companion blog, [www.janevincent.com/iceact](http://www.janevincent.com/iceact), which has not been updated since December 2011 (as of May 6, 2012). This may change, of course, as Vincent works on updating materials and adding new information.—*Lara Cummings, Instruction Librarian, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington*

---

**Know it All, Find it Fast for Academic Libraries.** Heather Dawson. London: Facet, 2012. 387 p. Paper \$79 (ISBN 978-1-85604-759-3).

Many Internet guides are available to assist librarians as they help patrons find the information they are looking for. Facet Publishing, based in the United Kingdom, provides a series of Internet guides for various librarians published under the name Know it All, Find it Fast. Heather Dawson of the London School of Economics Library has now written a guide for academic librarians in this series. The Know it All, Find it Fast series is specifically known not only for its vast cross-references of A-to-Z subject matter but also for its three approaches to finding information for each subject—Typical Questions, Points to Consider, and Where to Look. Each question has specific and very useful information on how to help patrons find the information they are looking for (and librarians will learn how to look more efficiently and effectively, thanks to these three approaches and the information they contain).

*Know it All, Find it Fast for Academic Libraries* contains ready-reference information for more than 100 subjects chosen for their particular importance to academic libraries, such as copyright, electronic resources, census research, government publications, medicine, nursing, and history. Area studies, such as Women's Studies and Latin American Studies, can also be found in this volume. In addition, the author provides for each subject an expansive, detailed, and very well organized list of Internet sites. Some print reference materials are included too, but the book devotes most of its references sources to Internet resources.

The book is a valuable reference source of British and international information for the academic subjects covered. Some American web sites and other materials are mentioned, but an academic librarian looking mainly for American reference material in this volume will be disappointed. Perhaps it would be worthwhile for the publisher to consider printing an American edition of this book.

Nevertheless, with its unique format, *Know it All, Find it Fast for Academic Libraries* is a valuable and useful ready-reference source due to the number and variety of subjects it covers; a patron will not leave empty-handed when librarians use this book for reference assistance. Highly recommended.—*Larry Cooperman, Adjunct Faculty Librarian, University of Central Florida Libraries, Orlando, Florida*