

The Digital Librarian's Legal Handbook. John N. Gathegi. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2012. 250 p. Paper \$130 (ISBN 978-1-55570-649-4).

This book, the third in “The Legal Advisor for Librarians, Educators, & Information Professionals” series, fills the library profession’s need for hands-on instruction in ways to protect our institutions from copyright liability arising from our roles as repositories of digital materials. Although many books on digital library management have been written, this book is unique in its depth of coverage of the law. Throughout the discussion, readers learn how case law has kept pace with evolving technology’s ability to create more and more unauthorized copies of protected materials in hitherto unforeseen ways. The author’s expertise in legal matters and his background in the library field enable him to deftly place the legal issues in the context of library work.

Gathegi’s handling of his material is highly analytical, which makes for rather dry, dense reading that many librarians will find to be hard work—definitely not something one can do while multitasking. The text boxes summarizing the notable points in each section are helpful in aiding comprehension. The inclusion of checklists allows readers to stop and think about how works in their collections relate to the examples. Best of all, the author provides a hypothetical set of facts involving a library at the end of each chapter. This enables the reader to consider how to handle such a situation if it arose at one’s own workplace. This feature is particularly thought-provoking; readers will be prompted to find out more about protecting their institutions in light of the vast legal exposure libraries have acquired along with e-books, databases, and other digital materials. This book is highly recommended for all libraries.—*Dana M. Lucisano, Reference Librarian, Silas Bronson Library, Waterbury, Connecticut*

Getting Started with GIS: A LITA Guide. Eva Dodsworth. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2011. 183 p. Paper \$70 (ISBN 978-1555707750).

Getting Started with GIS: A LITA Guide introduces and highlights the importance of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to librarians. The author cites Wikipedia in defining GIS as “a set of tools that captures, stores, analyzes, manages, and presents data that are linked to location” (4). This book serves as an initiation and tutorial to a field that librarians may not have encountered or that might not even have existed when the target audience attended library school.

Mapping technologies and their use have exploded in the last decade, and, according to Dodsworth, today’s citizens live in a world where spatial literacy is an essential skill. It follows that librarians of all types should have some understanding of GIS and should possess the skills required both to answer patron questions and to integrate GIS into their libraries in various ways. Throughout the book, the author gives examples of the ways that GIS infiltration has already started to happen in many libraries.

The book is divided into chapters on background information, GIS in Web 2.0, guides to web mapping, GIS data and software, and library services and collections. Each section lists extensive sources and references for the reader who would like to delve further into the subject. Lists of resources on the web and ideas for web searches also are highlighted. Due to the largely online content cited, the book sometimes feels already out of date, and, as with so many technology guides in print, is likely to become obsolete far too quickly. Fortunately, a companion website is provided. Although the book begins at a level that, in places, is too basic for many readers, it expands outward into realms that may be less and less familiar to the average reader.

Reading this book stimulates the librarian to brainstorm new programs and interesting ways to use GIS. The book also could be used as a reference source when questions arise or as a guide for learning a new skill. Extensive tutorials are provided to teach GIS skills and to help librarians teach such skills to patrons. Also featured are ways to select GIS data and find open source GIS software. Examples of specific libraries that are using GIS in innovative ways are included.

Overall, *Getting Started with GIS* is a useful introduction to the field of GIS, taking a librarian to the next knowledge or skill level and providing ideas for GIS integration and use. Recommended for academic and public libraries interested in implementing GIS or training librarians in GIS.—*Rachel Hamelers, Reference Librarian and Math and Science Subject Specialist, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania*

Graphic Novels in Your School Library. Jesse Karp. Chicago: ALA, 2012. 146 p. Paper \$50 (ISBN 978-0-8389-1089-4).

Graphic novel collections have become crowd pleasers in many school libraries. But this book focuses on how graphic novels should be used as part of the curriculum, rather than on their recreational use. The author starts with the history of comics, comic books, and graphic novels. For those who are unfamiliar with the genre, a tutorial is provided on how to read graphic novels. Although there is a short section on manga, this book concentrates mainly on graphic novels. The bulk of the book consists of annotated reading lists of comic books and graphic novels divided into grade-appropriate sections. The author also provides a segment on lesson plans and activities using graphic novels, including sections on the art of graphic novels and the use of graphic novels in curricular lessons and book clubs.

This book is a perfect fit for librarians who are new to graphic novels and those who want to take a deeper look into the history and importance of graphic novels. It is also an excellent resource for those interested in the history of comics and the evolution of the graphic novel. The annotated book lists are a great collection development tool. The lessons are geared for upper elementary, middle, and high school. This book is recommended for librarians who want to add graphic novels to their collections and who want to find a

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, 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*