

SOURCES

with traditional library instruction and maps out innovative theoretical and practical solutions through the creative application of critical pedagogy methodologies. Library literature often neglects to frame the daily work of librarians in terms of its social implications and potentials. The practicing instruction librarians contributing to this book draw on the work of theorists including Freire, Giroux, and others to provide an invaluable addition to the literature on library instruction by illuminating many paths to a critical information literacy praxis.

The five sections of this engaging book make a powerful argument for moving away from traditional positivist/instrumentalist educational models and toward discourse-based learning processes in the library classroom. The first two sections contain chapters focused on conceptual and practical tools for teaching librarians. The third section looks at critical library instruction in different contexts, including community colleges, service learning programs, and high school internships. In the fourth section, unconventional texts are presented as media for critical library instruction. Damian Duffy's chapter, for example, is drawn and written in comic form, allowing readers to experience the power of comics as a medium for critical engagement while they consider the potential for using comics in their own teaching. The final section of the book gives an overview of the broader issues of institutional power that frame efforts to teach library instruction in a critical way.

Critical Information Literacy is essential reading for teaching librarians, especially those in academic libraries, and valuable and thought-provoking reading for any librarian who is interested in the interconnections between library and information work and broader social structures.—*Sarah VanGundy, MLIS, Norman, Oklahoma*

Developing an Outstanding Core Collection: A Guide for Librarians. 2nd ed. Carol Alabaster. Chicago: ALA, 2010. 191 p. Paper \$60 (ISBN 978-0-8389-1040-5).

Carol Alabaster served as the Collection Development Coordinator at Phoenix Public Library for more than ten years, during which time she implemented core collections. These core collections were considered the most important works on a given topic, and each library was expected to have them in their collections. This book includes chapters on the philosophy of adult core collections; the development of a policy statement; and methods for selecting, creating and maintaining the core collection. Last, the author includes specific examples of resources and titles for core collections.

Although this is the second edition of this book, it lacks information on how collection development has changed. For example, except in the first chapter, many of the references remain the same as in the first edition (2002) and are more than ten years old. In addition, there is a notable lack of discussion on how to approach multiple formats of materials (e.g., e-books, audiobooks, large print) other than a few lines where she gives advice to consider the population. The author's preference is to still have print, with other formats merely as supplements.

Although the author gives specific examples of how core collections are used, these examples relate only to her experience at the Phoenix Public Library system, from which she retired more than ten years ago. Interviews or discussions with other librarians and more current experiences would be welcome. In addition, it seems extremely short-sighted these days to say that a system should have the same core title collections in each library, particularly when budgets are tight and many libraries transfer books between branches in a relatively short amount of time. The author is also remiss in failing to mention cooperative collection development information as practiced in such systems as SUNY Libraries, which implemented a policy of not duplicating books to preserve collection budgets.

Even with these faults, the book may have value to larger public library systems. However, other books might prove more useful to building overall collection development policies, such as *Developing Library and Information Center Collections*, 5th ed. by G. Edward Evans and Margaret Zamosky Saponaro (Libraries Unlimited, 2005) and *Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management* by Peggy Johnson (ALA, 2004).—*Andrew Shuping, Emerging Technologies/ILL Librarian, Jack Tarver Library, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia*

Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries and Archives: Essays on Readers, Research, History and Cataloging. Ed. by Robert G. Weiner. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2010. 276 p. Paper \$45 (ISBN 978-0-7864-4302-4).

Given the fact that graphic novels are now an established part of libraries and academia, it is not surprising to see a work such as *Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries and Archives: Essays on Readers, Research, History and Cataloging* appear in print. The purpose of the book is basically twofold: (1) to give theoretical and practical guidance to librarians, scholars, and archivists interested in serving their constituencies in the study and use of sequential art, and (2) to provide background and information about issues and resources specifically related to graphic novels in libraries and archives.

Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries and Archives: Essays on Readers, Research, History and Cataloging is comprised of ten parts with at least two essays each. Some essays include appendixes. The book is organized in such a way that it provides a step-by-step approach to questions and issues in the order in which a library or archive will most likely encounter them. It is a thorough and practical primer for librarians who are forming a graphic novel collection from scratch, and it is a useful resource even for those who have already built such a collection. This book offers updated ideas, hints, and tips to improve and expand awareness of graphic novel collections. It is extremely well organized with rich content. The contributors' research is supplemented with practical suggestions and solutions. The book favorably augments Francisca Goldsmith's *Graphic Novels Now: Building, Managing, and Marketing a Dynamic Collection* (ALA, 2005) and Steve