include multiple screenshots and primary source examples as beneficial illustrations.

The book’s overarching goal seems to be practical classroom application. Along with the chapters describing the Library of Congress online resources are two chapters including sample lesson plans and techniques for using local history resources. The lesson plans, provided by participants from the 2011 Library of Congress Summer Institute, are aimed at various age levels and use several types of primary sources. It is inspiring to see how primary sources are used with students ranging in age from kindergarten to high school, and the teacher/librarian comments on lesson plan implementation are very useful. Many of the plan descriptions also include samples of student work as well as student comments about the projects they created or what they learned from primary source exploration. The local history resources chapter brings together Library of Congress sources with local resources, giving good examples of where to look for local resources and how to use them in the classroom. Samples projects and feedback are included in this chapter as well.

Interacting with History provides a practical guide for teachers and librarians who might be new to integrating primary sources into the classroom. Detailed descriptions of Library of Congress resources designed specifically for educators, sample lesson plans, and examples of local resources combine practicality and usability. Many of the examples use Web 2.0 technologies in interesting and fun ways, and the student feedback highlights children’s and teens’ enjoyment of the projects. The chapter subheadings can be confusing at times, but the resources listed in the bibliographies and notes for each chapter and lesson plan more than make up for this drawback. Practical application and detailed instructions for webpage navigation make Interacting with History a user-friendly resource.—Jacquelyn Slater Reese, Librarian and Assistant Professor of Bibliography, University of Oklahoma Libraries, Norman, Oklahoma


Is it possible to provide excellent legal reference to library users without fear of liability or accusations of offering legal advice? According to this book, the answer is “yes.” In fact, as author Paul D. Healey points out, no librarian has ever been held professionally liable or accused of unauthorized practice of the law for providing legal information. However, the possibility of posturing as an expert is enough of a risk that many librarians are reluctant to offer this kind of reference service.

Healey’s concise and clearly written handbook provides guidance on how librarians can comfortably provide this service and still adhere to professional and personal codes of ethics. Divided into two parts, the opening chapters focus on pro se library users—that is, people who are handling their own legal affairs without being represented by an attorney. The author identifies the types of pro se users, their motivations for handling their own legal matters, and the potential risks they may confront. As Healey makes clear, not all pro se users risk the same level of harm; pro se users who are attempting to represent themselves in court are very different from pro se users who are merely drafting their own wills or business contracts. For these reasons, Healey advocates a minimalist approach in which the librarian provides the requested information but also makes it clear that more information may be needed. This way, pro se library users may begin to recognize for themselves the complexity and difficulty of legal research, which in turn “can motivate them to seek legal advice or representation” (19).

Part 2 is a legal research primer that will be especially useful to librarians who have never taken a legal research course as well as those in need of a refresher. Healey explains the structure of US law simply (international law is beyond this book’s scope) and provides an orientation to secondary legal resources. An explanation of statutes and constitutions, case law, and regulations is also included.

The appendix, which comprises nearly half of the book, is a beautifully detailed reference to online legal resources. The state-by-state guides are especially outstanding, citing research guides and other resources on each state’s executive, legislative, and judicial branches. For this reason alone, the book would prove to be a worthy addition to the ready reference shelf.

Bottom line: Healey, who is himself a law librarian and a former lawyer, balances his disciplinary knowledge with the practical needs of librarians and has produced a guide that is both readable and immensely useful.—Meagan Lacy, Coordinator for Information Literacy Instruction, Guttman Community College, New York City


Featuring a total of nine US makerspaces, this book explores the astounding diversity of library-sponsored makerspaces while providing the reader with a host of practical set-up tips along the way. Structurally, the text is bookended by a scene-setting introductory section and a succinct conclusion. Together, these contextual portions serve to defend the inclusion of makerspaces in twenty-first century libraries. “Libraries are community centers,” Bagley states; and, indeed, the trailblazing facilities highlighted in the book go to commendable lengths to solicit community input.

The Urbana Free Library in Illinois, for example, hired a community ambassador to help pinpoint the specific needs of their population. Further, this teen-oriented facility’s commitment to the minimization of (mostly material-based) fees is echoed throughout Bagley’s book, further justifying widespread library adoption of these innovation spaces. At the Cleveland Public Library, the only fee is for 3-D printing filament and, for a mere five cents per gram, programs (like

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