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*

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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*

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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...
“Custom Cookie Cutters”) are made accessible to all members of the library’s community.

The wide variety of programming and library types are perhaps the book’s strongest characteristic. In-depth descriptions are given for both Georgia Tech’s for-credit “Your Invention, Your Idea” university course and Carnegie Public Library’s innovative “Hip-Hop on L.O.C.K.” program, which pairs community members and local DJs for a lesson on organization and economics in a makerspace recording studio. Yet the text doesn’t stop there—issues related to fundraising, staffing, tools, and even advertising (especially social media marketing) are consistently raised in conjunction with the programming descriptions that each featured makerspace incorporates.

Bagley defines a makerspace as “a space that has been designed to allow users to create, build, and learn new projects and technologies,“ and her survey of the nation’s makerspace ecosystem is enlightening, even though it may be lacking a certain amount of contextual information pertaining to the origin and evolution of the concept. Any library professional with a creative streak and a desire to empower their community stands to benefit from this book.—Matt Cook, Emerging Technologies Librarian, University of Oklahoma Libraries, Norman, Oklahoma


For librarians faced with reference questions that have them wishing for a data specialist on staff to provide guidance, The Reference Guide to Data Sources provides expert assistance. Written by a librarian for librarians, the guide contains clear and concise directions on how to start a data search. The book focuses on helping library professionals answer questions in the burgeoning field of data reference, but it could also be easily used by end users. The guide begins with basic background information on how to conduct a reference interview for a patron with a data need and an overview of data jargon, definitions, and terms. The author also lists major agencies that gather statistics at both the national and international levels, clarifying the reasons some data is disseminated and some is not. The second chapter lists general data sources, places to begin a search before heading to the more specific resources listed in the subject based sections. The subsequent chapters provide quick introductions to the kind of data collected in various topic areas and list annotated resources for each that are divided into major and minor sources. The librarian or end user can simply flip to the relevant chapter and see what is available in a subject area. Most of the recommended data sets in the book are freely available, online, quantitative, and oriented toward the social sciences. Both US and international data resources are included. This guide would be especially useful for a new librarian, an experienced professional new at answering data questions, or a librarian simply unfamiliar with certain subject-specific data sets. The last chapter covers what to do when an online data search has failed, illustrating ways to use article databases and Worldcat in data searches as well as how to access experts. Also included are tips on how to cite data and how to use the open source Survey Documentation and Analysis software. Overall, this guide serves as an accessible and well organized overview of online places to search for data. This book is highly recommended for all types of libraries.—Rachel Hamelers, Science Librarian, Muhlenberg College Library, Allentown, Pennsylvania


Articulating connections between child development and storytime practices, STEP into Storytime is a rich resource for both novice and experienced storytime presenters. StoryTime Effective Practice is an approach aimed at developing storytime programs that are beneficial and effective for mixed-age groups, keeping the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical development of children at the forefront. Discussing developmentally appropriate practice and how it is applied as a foundation for STEP, this manual takes readers through a three-part method that shows how easy it is to integrate best child development support practices into all storytimes.

Part I helps readers understand what StoryTime Effective Practice is, offers a framework for planning, and explains intentionality and scaffolding. Part II examines the connections between storytime practices and children’s progress in the four developmental domains. Part III offers techniques and examples to help apply all that the reader has learned. The chapters in this book are detailed and in-depth, yet succinct and easy to read.

STEP into Storytime offers more than thirty ready-to-go storytimes that include songs, extension activities, parenting tips, and other features. Storytime presenters can use the storytimes as they are, use them as a foundation for their own designs, or combine certain elements with their own programs. Examples include traditional and sequential mixed-age storytimes.

A valuable source for children’s librarians, teachers, and caregivers, veteran or amateur, STEP into Storytime is a refreshing, insightful manual. This is an excellent addition for a professional collection, to develop techniques, to reinvigorate current programs, or even for quick reference.—Jill Eisele, Early Literacy Librarian, Glen Ellyn Public Library, Wheaton, Illinois


It’s all about the user. This point is made clear in Aaron Schmidt and Amanda Etches’s new book, Useful, Usable, Desirable: Applying User Experience Design to Your Library. The conversational tone of this book adds to the growing body of