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Professional Materials

Karen Antell, Editor

Classroom Assessment Techniques for Librarians. By Melissa Bowles-Terry and Cassandra Kvenild. Chicago: ACRL, 2015. 140 p. Paper $36 (ISBN: 978-0-8389-8775-9).

Melissa Bowles-Terry and Cassandra Kvenild present *Classroom Assessment Techniques for Librarians* as a toolbox for instruction librarians seeking to create an assessment program in their academic library. Beginning by providing a basic introduction to educational assessment theory, Bowles-Terry and Kvenild build a foundation of understanding with their fellow instruction librarians regarding what assessment means and why it should be used in any library instruction program. Recognizing the difficulties instruction librarians face in implementing successful and useful assessment in the academic library world of one-shot sessions and one-day workshops, the authors fill each chapter with myriad creative and interactive sample assessment techniques designed specifically for each type of library education scenario, such as face-to-face one-shot sessions and online for-credit classes.

Each chapter follows a similar structure, beginning with a descriptive title identifying the purpose of the assessment techniques to be discussed (such as "Chapter 1: Assessing Prior Knowledge and Understanding" and "Chapter 4: Assessing Skill in Application"). Following the title is a section explaining why and when these skills or knowledge should be assessed. Next, each chapter provides specific examples of techniques, complete with hypothetical scenarios and visual aids, and categorized by the type of education experience or resource, such as "Example in the First-Year Experience" (4) and "Example for Choosing a Database" (25). Each chapter ends with an explanation of how to score the assessment technique or tool being discussed, such as "How to Score a Background Knowledge Check" (6) and "How to Score a Categorizing Grid" (25). The chapters' consistency facilitates an ease of use rarely seen in an academic text, as users will be able to quickly and reliably find the assessment tool they need without wading through an inordinate amount of theory.

Combining academic theory with practical insights, Bowles-Terry and Kvenild provide a balanced and perceptive assessment resource in *Classroom Assessment Techniques for Librarians.—Calantha Tillotson, Reference Assistant, Bizzell Library, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma*

The Handbook for Storytellers. By Judy Freeman and Caroline Feller Bauer. Chicago: ALA, 2015. 394 p. Paper $65 (ISBN: 978-0-8389-1100-6).

This is an updated and expanded edition of a popular, professional classic with a new co-author. A great storyteller, former school librarian, and now library school adjunct professor, Judy Freeman is a worthy successor to the groundbreaking Caroline Feller Bauer, who died in 2013. Described as a companion volume to *The Handbook for Storytime Programs* (forthcoming from ALA in 2015), this is a true handbook covering the entire process, from story

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selection to program promotion to taking care of one's voice. The authors also provide advice on using technology in story programs. Like earlier editions, this book includes a wealth of material in its annotated bibliographies, which are organized by genre (folktales, trickster tales, myths, fables, etc.) and provide illustrative sample stories and ideas for props and activities that engage children of all ages during story programs.

Print materials have been updated from earlier editions, with copyright dates of recommended titles running through 2013. An effort was made to include older titles that are still available either from libraries or through sources like Project Gutenberg. Numerous up-to-date online resources are included with every list of books, and the authors also provide links to related organizations, equipment suppliers, and so forth. Subject, author, and title indexes add to the value of this professional reference resource.

There is no denying Ms. Freeman's encyclopedic knowledge of her subject. Bound to be useful to any beginning or practicing storyteller, this book is a recommended for the professional collection of any school, public, or academic library. This reviewer found only one error found in the text: On page 19, the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee, is said to be held by the National Storytelling Network. Currently, this festival is produced by the International Storytelling Center. The website for the festival in the text is correct.—*Valerie Kimble, Librarian/Selector, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma*

Navigating the Future with Scenario Planning: A Guidebook for Librarians. By Joan Giesecke, Jon Cawthorne, and Deb Pearson. Chicago: ACRL, 2015. 128 p. Paper $36 (ISBN: 978-0-8389-8751-3).

No librarian likes to think about any potential problems that may arise in their library in the future. But how does one effectively prepare for potential future emergencies? Scenario planning, with a technique originated by Herman Kahn and the RAND Corporation after World War II, can be adapted by librarians to do contingency planning. Unlike strategic planning, scenario planning uses statistical tools and techniques to predict a variety of future outcomes of a specific event. *Navigating the Future with Scenario Planning: A Guidebook for Librarians* is a useful and valuable handbook that leads librarians through the process of scenario planning so that they can predict and respond effectively to potential future situations.

The authors begin with an introduction to the theory and practice of scenario planning, followed by chapters dealing with scenario planning strategies and development, with an emphasis on scenario planning in higher education. Readers will find extensively detailed chapters on how to develop and write effective plans and how to use scenario planning to successfully implement change management. Most importantly, the authors have included a case study that deals with scenario planning development and outcomes at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Charts, tables, examples, and extensive end-of-chapter references complement a very comprehensive and useful handbook. The book would be more useful if it included additional case studies, as this would provide readers with additional examples to enhance and assist them in creating their own scenario plans.

Nevertheless, *Navigating the Future with Scenario Planning* provides librarians with a useful guidebook for effectively creating, developing, and implementing scenario planning to help them predict and manage change as it occurs in their libraries. Highly recommended.—*Larry Cooperman, University of Central Florida Libraries, Orlando, Florida*

New Routes to Library Success: 100+ Ideas from Outside the Stacks. Elisabeth Doucett. Chicago: ALA, 2014. 240 p. $55 (ISBN: 978-0-8389-1313-0).

New Routes to Library Success, by Elisabeth Doucett, brings new management and marketing ideas from the business sector into the library. Traditionally, when experiencing and managing change, librarians have looked to other librarians, not to the business world, for new ideas. This book, based on a series of interviews with business and nonprofit leaders, was written to help librarians change the way they think and the places they go for new ideas as they address their communities' changing needs. Doucett introduces innovative ways to bring change to libraries by drawing from the experience and insight of business leaders.

Doucett begins by explaining the reasoning and process used in her questioning. In each chapter, she explains why she chose the topic and the organization to interview and describes the lessons that were learned from that specific interview. Each chapter ends with a summary of the ideas that Doucett learned from that interview, a list of the questions asked, and a list of recommended resources on the topic. The first chapter, "The Process," describes how librarians can create their own assessment tools by focusing on what insights might be gleaned from specific businesses and how they can create an atmosphere of change in their own organizations. The succeeding chapters address topics ranging from creativity to entrepreneurship to content creation. One chapter focuses on creating a great workplace and learning about your community; another is about customer service (based on her interview with executives from L. L. Bean).

Doucett has a unique way of looking for innovative ideas and applying them to the library world. She asks questions of business leaders, analyzes their responses, and explains how this information can be applied practically to the library setting. Helpfully, an index is included to provide easy access to specific themes.

This is the latest in Doucett's arsenal of books that help librarians use management and marketing ideas to stir up the library world. More than just a program-based marketing plan, this book offers real business ideas that can be useful to a library. Recommended for librarians who want to develop new ways to bring transformative change to their