smoldering than burning. This small volume focuses on the importance of learning, teaching, and fostering the skills needed to meet the ever-evolving needs of library patrons.

The words and concepts that seemed most significant in this book are chaos, playtime, and visibility. Stephens correctly asserts that visibility is and will continue to be a key to a library's success within its community, and that we can longer wait behind our information desks for patrons to come to us. We need to change our roles to join patrons where and how they are working. We also should encourage and enable staff to take playtime to explore new technologies, and we must connect with colleagues not just at conferences but via blogs, libchats, and MOOCS. In one essay, Stephens outlines the notion of "embracing chaos," which is really another way of encouraging library staff to remain ready and willing develop new services and try new approaches to problem solving.

In one of the book's last essays, "Lessons from the #hyperlibMOOC," Stephens outlines the roles identified for librarians by students who participated in Hyperlinked Library, a MOOC offered at Stephens' institution, the School of Information at San Jose State University. These roles included "Guide," “[Open] Access Provider,” “Creator,” and “Instructor.” These roles are reflected in his essay “Listening to Student Voices” and in the book’s overall call to engage with our library patrons and listen actively to their voices to ensure that our profession’s voice evolves with the needs of the communities we serve.

Previously published in Library Journal, the essays in this book flow well together and are united in their focus on transformations in the library profession, were previously published in Library Journal. They are organized under section headings in the table of contents; specific topics and authors can also be searched in the index, and a bibliography is included. I would recommend this book to both new and experienced library staff as an easy read that nonetheless provides a lot of food for thought and ideas to incorporate in our own professional practice.—Laura Graveline, Visual Arts Librarian, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire


Funding cuts to school libraries and librarians are the norm in today’s budget climate, and librarians need specific skills to ensure that school libraries survive and thrive. Weisberg’s book is an all-in-one guide for school librarians. It is organized in three parts: (1) “Safe First Steps to Leadership,” (2) “Building Your Leadership Skills,” and (3) “Playing Larger.” Part 1 includes information for librarians about developing mission and vision statements, creating a welcoming environment for students and teachers, and understanding the differences between being a classroom teacher and being a school librarian. Part 2 addresses leadership development, from discovery of one’s strengths to continuous improvement as a leader to improvement of one’s communication skills. Part 3 covers moving leadership outside of the library by developing a strategic plan, staying visible and current, and giving back to oneself.

This is a book that both beginning and experienced librarians will find useful. For new librarians, part 1 will provide the tools to create a positive environment, to consider the mission of the library, to manage classes and students in the library, and to become an expert teacher. For librarians who want to become better leaders, part 2 provides tools for self-reflection and best practices for leading. Part 3 shows librarians how to make themselves visible as leaders, encourages them to grow their network, and to give back to the librarian profession. This is a comprehensive book that includes valuable information for school librarians, no matter their level of experience. Any school librarian or school district could use this book to ensure that their librarians and library program are seen as indispensable.—Melanie Wachsmann, Reference/Teen Librarian, Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library, Cypress, Texas


For those starting up a new library makerspace or those already managing one, this book offers advice to managers and staff on the logistics of running a library makerspace and discusses the requisite interpersonal skills for employees of such facilities. Divided into three parts, this book is organized chronologically, following the progression from creating to operating to sustaining a library makerspace. It addresses both the quotidian and the conceptual, from day-to-day operations to effective pedagogy, and ends with thoughts on the future of library makerspaces.

Beginning with the definition of a makerspace and how this can vary depending on the type of library that hosts it, this book covers public, academic, and K–12 libraries, introducing readers to a broad spectrum of library makerspace models. Equipment lists for all budget sizes and technological foci are included. Part 1 emphasizes the importance of communication with the space’s users to learn which tools and programming are most useful and appropriate for them while encouraging a diverse, radically inclusive library makerspace culture.

Part 1 ends with a section on safety, an appropriate segue into part 2, which consists of chapters that overview a makerspaces in a variety of libraries. These chapters serve as guides for projects including some of the most popular technology found in makerspaces.

This book concludes with thoughts on the sustainability of library makerspaces and recommendations for ways to ensure their continued success following the depletion of start-up funding and interest. This section emphasizes the importance of fostering the community that embodies a makerspace by acknowledging that everyone is a maker.