new partnerships between Wikipedia and libraries rests on the task of building on this existing foundation with innovative practical strategies for putting this alliance to work and ultimately delivering on that promise, if in a circuitous and somewhat repetitive way. After the first few chapters it becomes clear that there are only so many established ways for library professionals to harness the audience and infrastructure of Wikipedia, and they are trying to work in library procedures. Schulz also offers guidelines for developing genealogy collections. She encourages collecting in-depth local history materials, local vital records, cemetery inventories, church records, and county records of all kinds.

Most public librarians, however, are general information specialists. Their task in serving genealogy researchers is limited to helping them get started by providing resources and teaching basic skills in searching, including both print materials and online databases. Also, Schultz’s extensive “core collection” would require dedication of significant materials and online databases. Also, Schultz’s extensive “core collection” would require dedication of significant resources. Most local public libraries have much larger missions.

This handbook is a perfect resource for experienced librarians with limited knowledge of serious genealogy research who wish to work in genealogical libraries. The information covered is meticulously discussed and could prove to be a valuable resource for a librarian working in this field. However, most of the language in this handbook seems to assume an audience of researchers rather than librarians. Given that, perhaps, its real usefulness would be as part of a basic genealogy collection for customer use.—Kathryn Ramsay, Local History and Genealogy Resources Librarian, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma


Although the concept of “sustainability” has many possible meanings, its connection to environmental issues is perhaps the most familiar. Thus, a reader coming across Rebekkah Smith Aldrich’s new book might assume that it is primarily about how libraries can best demonstrate stewardship of environmental resources. While this is certainly one important piece of the discussion, Sustainable Thinking has a much larger goal: advocating the capacity of libraries to build communities, whether it be through environmental, financial, leadership, political, or other initiatives.

As a long-time advocate for libraries and sustainability, Aldrich has a wealth of experience in library advocacy and communicates her message well. This book is comprised of several easy-to-read and brief chapters (no more than five pages), with a thought-provoking exercise at the end of each reading. Section One, “Situation Report,” sets the stage: use of public libraries is down, although people still have generally favorable opinions of them. It’s necessary for librarians to be aware of the many disruptions—political, economic, technological, environmental, and societal—surrounding them and their institutions to develop effective strategies for survival.

Section Two, “The Strategy,” outlines ways that libraries can inventory themselves, their communities, and their values. Particularly interesting in this section is Aldrich’s construct of the Three E’s of Sustainable Libraries: Empower, Engage, and Energize, which serves as a focal point around which libraries can self-inventory their connection to their communities. Section Three, “The Tactics,” builds on the