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Professional Materials

Calantha Tillotson, Editor

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Carson brings her years of experience with physical literacy programs in libraries and other spaces to create this well thought-out and researched guide to physical literacy programming and its rationale in the library. She makes clear the connection between physical health and mental/emotional well-being, as well as how physical activity can positively affect library staff and patrons alike. The exploration of the mind/body connection and the assertions of the positive connections between the two supported with well-researched facts makes this book worth examining. In particular, the correlation between regular exercise and lowered teen suicide rates should be enough motivation for all libraries to provide these types of programs that engage our communities in physical activity and awareness.

Many libraries are already doing these kinds of programs. As Carson mentions, in a survey of 300 libraries, 65 percent noted that their library offers some programming that encourages physical activity. In addition, the feedback from participants of these activities has been overwhelmingly positive with many patrons coming back for more, which are the stories and statistics that libraries are always looking for. Each chapter in this book tackles a different demographic or program-based idea, such as passive play, physical literacy programs for children and families, and inclusivity. Each chapter provides an overview of the theme and then gives actual programs that Carson has brought to her library, which are adaptable by others. Each program includes a systematic plan, materials required, budget details, and implementation tips, as well as the all-important literacy tie-ins for those who need to justify their physical literacy programs a bit more. Each chapter also features an “Activity All Star” who is highlighted for bringing unique physical literacy programs to their libraries.

This book is recommendable for libraries of all types that are looking to incorporate physical literacy into their current programming. Each chapter allows for modifications of programs based on size and ability and justifies the importance of the activity as well as the intended outcomes. Carson covers various demographics, including the indigenous populations near her Canadian library. A section on taking care of library staff through physical activity in the workplace is especially refreshing—her statistic that office workers have more musculoskeletal injuries than any other industry is sobering and should make all of us want to move more!—Teralee ElBasri, Librarian, La Prade Branch Library, North Chesterfield, Virginia


In any field, research is a process involving many steps...

For those engaging with first-year students and planning first-year programs in academic libraries, the library orientation is a key part of the work we do. “Library orientation” is often a catch-all term that is used to describe many types of library activities aimed at new college students, including in-class sessions, tours, online tutorials, and more. For a librarian revising an existing orientation program or starting from scratch, the possibilities are almost limitless, and it can be daunting to weed through the many options and settle on one that works for your library, your institution, and your students.

In Planning Academic Library Orientations: Case Studies from Around the World, the editors have compiled thirty-four case studies from libraries that offer orientations for new students. The single volume contains a diversity of institutional and library contexts reflective of the variety in the academic library world. The editors feature a wide range of case studies, including differing sizes of colleges and universities, as well as both public and private institutions, which highlight the innovation of librarians from many contexts and cultures. For example, for those looking for ways that small, private liberal arts colleges are providing library orientations, they will easily find a variety of experiences and each includes practical details that would help with local implementation. To add to the volume’s practical appeal, each case study includes several key components: institutional context such as university size and location, library faculty/staff size, details of history (or lack thereof) of library orientation, explanation of design and implementation process, and librarian reflection and/or formal program assessment.

One key strength of the book is the thematic organization that makes it easy to navigate and identify sections most relevant for an individual reader. Chapters are organized thematically into sections, so those looking for inspiration or experience with a specific type of library orientation, will easily be able to navigate to the examples most useful for their situation. The themes include games, marketing and promotion, partnerships, specific audiences, technology, and tours. Additionally, because most case studies encompass multiple themes, the editors include tags at the beginning of each chapter and a thematic index to allow for quick cross-referencing.

Planning Academic Library Orientations would be an invaluable asset to any librarian working with first-year students, as it offers a well-organized reference for those who plan, implement, or assess librarian orientations. In addition, it is a worthwhile handbook for any librarian who wants to continue (or begin) offering an active, engaging orientation for new students.—Holly Luetkenhaus, First Year Experience Librarian, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma


In Maximizing School Librarian Leadership, Moreillon blends the 2018 AASL National School Library Standards and the concepts of Guided Inquiry Design: A Framework for Inquiry in your School by Carol Kuhlthau, Leslie Maniotes, and Ann Caspari (Libraries Unlimited, 2012). Moreillon tasks the school librarian to join the school leadership team in promoting inquiry learning through advocacy and professional development. By helping their school build a culture that supports a shared vision, the school librarian can help teachers embrace new ways of teaching with inquiry learning. Moreillon does an outstanding job of showing how the AASL standards and the Guided Inquiry Design (GID) model combined creates a deeper learning experience for students. The book outlines multiple strategies for inquiry learning but focuses primarily on using the GID model.

Moreillon stresses that a large part of the leadership role for school librarians lies in actively collaborating with teachers to design classroom learning. She gives examples