
Service learning is a type of experiential learning through which students learn while engaged in a service project. A librarian’s role might involve helping students frame research questions, introducing library resources, or teaching information literacy concepts. In “Introduction to Library Service and Learning,” the editors note the transformative learning potential of service learning opportunities. These types of learning experiences allow students more self-direction and a chance to have a real impact on the community; they are hands-on, student-focused, and authentic. Twenty-one chapters detail unique examples of how academic librarians collaborated with campus or community partners to integrate the library into a service learning project. A final chapter presents a review of literature on service learning that complements the book’s contents.

There are many moving parts to service learning projects, and this book presents them in a detailed and consistent format that makes them seem less daunting and more doable. Each chapter provides an overview of a specific service learning activity, a description of the people involved, details of the steps followed, project feedback and assessment, a conclusion, and an appendix of materials. Within these categories, the authors address the importance of student reflection as part of the learning experience. They also describe any difficulties they encountered.

Library Service and Learning is recommended for academic librarians who are interested in beginning or expanding their involvement with service learning educational opportunities. They can choose from a wide range of topics covered in the various chapters and draw upon the detailed examples to begin their own projects. The examples provide not only a practical guide for librarians but also a resource to help convince potential partners to engage in collaborations. Unfortunately, the book lacks an index that would help someone locate terms mentioned throughout the text.—Cheryl McCain, Library Instruction Coordinator, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma


For those interested in recharging their career, exploring new places, or gaining unique experience, Carlyle and Winn’s approachable and pragmatic volume Your Passport to International Librarianship will prove useful. The book covers the entire process of working internationally as a librarian, including visiting libraries while on personal vacations, as well as volunteering with international organizations, such as library nonprofits. The authors cover the benefits of international travel and volunteering, preparations necessary both personally and professionally, personal experiences, and advice for collaborating with your host library after returning home.

Each chapter also pulls out quotes from experienced international librarians and their host librarians to add more voices to the narrative. Written in a conversational tone, the advice comes across as a well-travelled friend giving you advice and ends with a useful resource list, providing those dreaming of working abroad a jumping-off point. It is also important to note that the book does discuss being a humble traveler and not bringing a colonizing attitude when working internationally.

The main limitation of the book is that while the authors cover the many possible avenues for international librarianship, they focus mainly on their own experiences. This results in Librarians Without Borders getting the majority of coverage in the book, although the authors acknowledge this and offer information on other opportunities. For this same reason they are also able to offer in-depth coverage, advice, and personal anecdotes, which makes the book enjoyable and relatable.

The book is an excellent starting place for working internationally as a librarian, most likely as a volunteer. It is a useful read for any library professional or library school student interested in pursuing an international library adventure.—Jessica Martinez, Assistant Professor, Science Librarian, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho


The increasing prevalence of electronic resources in academic libraries has forced information professionals to rethink many aspects of library services. The last couple of decades have seen significant updates to national standards and practice, and librarian core competencies. This book presents a well-rounded view of the current state of electronic resources management in academic libraries, with chapters covering a wide variety of topics, including discovery, analytics, vendor relations, and departmental reorganization. Even if managing electronic resources is not one of your primary job duties, this book can provide valuable insight into an ever-growing field of librarianship that impacts library service at all levels.

For those new to the world of e-resources management (ERM), this book is an excellent resource for getting started on the cutting edge of e-resources librarianship. While the author sprinkles argon and acronyms throughout the book, the early chapters define each term. A few chapters also provide a historical view of certain standards and practices, offering context for recent changes in the field. Addressing nearly every aspect of ERM, the book acknowledges the jack-of-all-trades nature of being an e-resources librarian (ERL). The numerous skillsets required for effective ERM