Library Resources & Technical Services (LRTS)
Instructions for book reviewers

Length: Generally 800-1,200 words; see review editor’s letter for specific length.

Content: Reviews should evaluate books as a contribution to the literature of library and information science, characterizing the content of the book and critically appraising it. Try to position the book within the intellectual history of the field by comparing it to other books or ideas that are related. Library Resources & Technical Services is not a library book selection tool and does not include purchasing recommendations.

Style: LRTS follows The Chicago Manual of Style, 17th ed. (2017). Please include the following information in the review:

- Quotations: Give pages numbers in parentheses (36) (vii) immediately following the quotation.
- Place quotation marks around chapter or section headings. Be sure these reflect the exact language used in the book.
- Use the acronym or initialism in parentheses to facilitate subsequent references to the same entity: “The Library of Congress (LC) is...”
- Record author(s), title, place, and date of publication for all works cited. A complete bibliographic citation should be included at the end of the text. Please verify all citations carefully.
- Reviewer’s name, e-mail address, and affiliation should immediately follow the text of the review. If the reviewer is unaffiliated, please give the city of residence.

Approach: To characterize the book’s content, a synthesis or a description of its highlights is preferable to a chapter-by-chapter account. State your opinions clearly. Be fair and specific with both praise and criticism. Understand the author’s purpose in writing the book and evaluate the author’s success in meeting these objectives. Consider the following questions as you form your opinion of the book:

- Are the objectives worthwhile?
- How does the book compare to others of similar content and purpose?
- What is unique or particularly valuable about the book?
- To what audience will the book be most interesting or useful?
- Are there any significant errors or omissions?

Thank you for contributing to Library Resources & Technical Services. If you have questions about review style or the process generally, please contact me.

LRTS Assistant Editor
lrtsbookreviews@ala.org