

in the corrections setting, so this is a significant theme, and the authors give it the attention it deserves. Chapters 4 and 5 discuss the different types of correctional facilities and explain how the library fits into each. Chapters 6 through 11 discuss each of the aspects of librarianship, from collection development and cataloging to staffing and budgets.

While this reviewer has no immediate designs on this field of librarianship, he found this work both enlightening and engaging. The authors provide a remarkable volume of useful content in a modest 246 pages. Not only are Clark and Mac-Creaigh efficient, they strike just the right tone to draw in the reader. Their friendly, conversational voice gives the reader the feeling that he or she is receiving invaluable counsel from a knowledgeable, ardent mentor over lunch, and the numerous anecdotes, many describing interactions with inmates or security personnel, contribute to this impression. This title is strongly recommended for professionals considering correctional facility librarianship, or for those in the profession looking for supporting materials.—*James Bierman, Engineering Librarian, University of Oklahoma, Norman*

Literature Search Strategies for Interdisciplinary Research: A Sourcebook for Scientists and Engineers. Ed. by Linda G. Ackerson. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2007. 132 p. \$35 (ISBN 0-8108-5241-1).

Literature Search Strategies for Interdisciplinary Research is a timely, informative introduction to the process of doing research across disciplines. Very few current guides to interdisciplinary research of any kind are available, much less in science and engineering. Perhaps the received wisdom is that if an investigator can conduct research in one field, he or she can do it in several fields. However, this is a false inference. Among other considerations, one must understand the history and development of each field, become familiar with the indexing policies of primary indexes (when primary indexes exist), and understand how knowledge is disseminated in the fields one is investigating. Interdisciplinary research is a difficult undertaking for the professional as well as the novice, a fact that makes Ackerson's contribution all the more welcome.

This book is divided into two parts: the introduction, and the contributed essays. In the introduction, Ackerson offers an extremely informative theoretical framework for doing interdisciplinary research. In it, she outlines the questions we should ask and the types of sources we should look for when developing a research strategy. The bulk of the book is a collection of ten essays, selected by Ackerson, that detail how to put one's research strategy into practice based on the types of materials that are available in the disciplines one is investigating. The selected essays cover the following interdisciplinary fields: paleontology, crystallography, quaternary research, human factors engineering, nanotechnology, atmospheric chemistry, bioethics, computational biology, engineering entrepreneurship, and machine learning. Each essay contains a history of the discipline and an overview of the resources available for researching in that discipline.

Ackerson's book is not intended to be the last word on interdisciplinary research in science and engineering, but it is a long-overdue contribution. This work is a fine selection for any research library, but is particularly fitting for science and engineering collections.—*Chris Springer, Instruction Librarian, University of Central Arkansas, Conway*

A Passion for Print: Promoting Reading and Books to Teens. Kristine Mahood. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 239 p. \$40 (ISBN 1-59158-146-X).

Mahood's work hinges upon and opens with a well-documented analysis of teenage assumptions, feelings, and rationales both for and against libraries and reading in general. Mahood then proceeds to synthesize that data and formulate implications for librarians, teachers, parents, and other reading advocates. She draws upon a variety of resources, including professional research studies, reader and library surveys, individual interviews, and marketing techniques of trendy clothing and department stores, as inspiration for practical suggestions to promote libraries and encourage reading among teens.

The writing style is clear and straightforward, with a logical flow from one topic to the next. Mahood understands youths, and her affinity for young people is evident throughout. Those interested in pursuing particular topics in more depth will be pleased to find bibliographic references and suggestions for further reading at the close of each chapter. The table of contents showing chapter headings and subheadings, two appendixes (one listing young adult books and one citing resources for developing booklists and other promotional items), and a thorough index add utility to the work.

The author covers a surprising amount of material in a rather brief volume. She provides a concise yet thorough overview of several topics relevant to libraries, public relations, and teenagers, including designing promotional items and Web sites, book talking, activities, readers' advisory, spatial arrangement, and collection development. Mahood targets public libraries, but her information and suggestions are equally valid for secondary school libraries and can be easily adapted to educational settings. She presents many new insights and unique approaches, and the volume will have value for both new and experienced librarians who want to stay abreast of current trends among their teenage patrons.—*Terri L. Street, Library Media Specialist, Longfellow Middle School, Norman, Oklahoma*

Technology Made Simple: An Improvement Guide for Small and Medium Libraries. Kimberly Bolan and Robert Cullin. Chicago: ALA, 2006. 250 p. \$40 (ISBN 0-8389-0920-5).

Bolan and Cullin have created an excellent technology desk reference in this new volume. However, don't let the title fool you—large libraries could also benefit from the technology tips spelled out inside.

While so many librarians realize the importance of teaching patrons to evaluate their information needs, there are

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some of us who forget to do that for ourselves in regard to technology. Bolan and Cullin give clear examples that cut through the geek speak and lay it all out in a compact format for those venturing into the technology realm. The main concept that the authors are trying to relay is best explained in the “Know IT” chapter: “Don’t be afraid! Technology does not have to be rocket science” (47), and the book keeps that approach throughout. Topics include all the things that experienced IT people would want their colleagues to understand, even if they can’t explain it clearly themselves. The topics cover everything from the role of libraries in the technology world, needs analysis, using focus groups, staff skills evaluation, using consultants, collaboration to make IT work, training, and more. Each chapter gives examples of libraries that are doing a particularly good job regarding the topic being addressed, and the real-life examples show readers that they aren’t alone in their ambitions (or even their apprehensions). Perhaps one of the best parts of the book is the material contained in the appendixes, which includes worksheets for everything from inventory control to license tracking to marketing the technology; comparison data on demographics, technology budgets, and more; sample IT job descriptions; and sample publications that libraries can use to promote their technology.

This book is a useful tool for administrators and front-line librarians in small and medium libraries as well as for those looking to enter the library technology field.—*Adriana Edwards-Johnson, Virtual Library Manager, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma*

A Year of Programs for Teens. Amy J. Alessio and Kimberly A. Patton. Chicago: ALA, 2007. 168 p. \$35 (ISBN 0-8389-0903-5).

Teens are a population often unrecognized and underserved in library service, but this book makes them top priority, single-handedly attempting to correct (and, at times, overcompensate for) such lamentable disservice.

This book is geared toward those upper elementary, high school, and public libraries that are searching for inspiration and programming ideas. Information about creating a framework for library teen services is missing, making this

book more useful for idea gathering and programming examples than for guidance in establishing a philosophy of teen services.

The first part of the book provides a limited overview of considerations regarding teen programming, such as planning, promoting, and executing programs. Monthly club-type offerings are briefly outlined, such as teen advisory boards, writing clubs, and coffeehouses. The importance of networking with other agencies serving teens and community service for teens also are touched upon briefly.

Part two, comprising the majority of the book, provides a great collection of programming possibilities. Month-by-month, thematic programming ideas are offered, including brief descriptions, preparation times, program lengths, number of participants, age ranges, shopping lists, timelines for organization and setup, detailed instructions, and other program variations and hints. At the end of each month’s section, there are more suggestions, including thematic passive programs, resource lists, and display materials. As a bonus, the appendix reproduces several examples of various relevant administrative documents, promotional items, and programming materials that will be of great benefit to readers.

As a whole, the programming calendar is overwhelming; but in small doses, or as a starting point, the ideas are ready-to-use—either as presented or with adjustments for specific libraries—and they may lead to whole new ideas for readers. Program suggestions vary from the passive selections that stand alone and run themselves, such as “Fast Food Trivia,” to the more aggressive, labor-intensive programming, such as the “Back to School Fashion Show.” Some programs may be difficult to justify in a library setting unless the organization’s goal is to attract teens in any way possible, as through entertainment, food, and rewards.

Alessio and Patton offer their expertise in an accessible, easy-to-read format that is highly usable. Above all, these ideas have been tried and tested, which means less guesswork and valuable time savings in the conception, design, and execution of programming for teens.—*Sarah Hart, Information Services Librarian, Children’s Services, Brampton Library, Ontario, Canada*