definitions at the end of each chapter do little to support the reader; many general terms such as social media and social networking are repeated, and definitions are inconsistent. Similarly, the index, which at two pages is relatively light for a 388 pp text, provides limited support. The two-column presentation is difficult to read, and at times, the quality of the writing and editing is below what a reader might expect of an academic endeavour.

Despite these limitations, this is a rich resource and timely publication for LIS professionals and academics with an interest in the use of social media in the developing world and Africa, in particular, which the book explains is currently experiencing a social networking boom. Although the editor makes claims for the value of this "hands-on 'how to'" book for practitioners, its size, price and presentation make it better suited as a resource for LIS education.

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The Top Technologies Every Librarian Should Know: A LITA Guide

Edited by Kenneth J. Varnum
ALA TechSource
Chicago
2014
144 pp.
US$70.00 soft cover
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Review DOI 10.1108/EL-08-2015-0159

Technological advances and their eventual impact on library user services can occur at a rapid rate. The time span from nascent idea to product adoption by users is shortening. Libraries have become technology leaders by implementing cutting-edge tools to enhance their users' experience. Where is library technology heading in the next few years? What are the emerging tools and technologies that we should be paying attention to, to be ready when the time is right to adopt them? Those are the questions contributors to *The Top Technologies Every Librarian Needs to Know* were asked to address.

This is a highly informative book on the topic of emerging technologies for libraries and librarians. Most of technologies discussed are available now. Some are being refined for library applications to open the future for libraries and library services. Some of the technologies explored here are being used by libraries around the world already. This book is a valuable resource for any library, the chapters include: Impetus to Innovate: Convergence and Library Trends; Hands-Free Augmented Reality: Impacting the Library Future; Libraries and Archives Augmenting the World; The Future of Cloud-Based Library Systems; Library Discovery; Web Services as the New Websites for Many Libraries; Text Mining; Bigger, Better, Together Building the Digital Library of the Future and Open Hardware in Libraries.

The chapters are well written and give enough information to help librarians brainstorm what could be the next big thing for their libraries. Another important aspect of this book is that it briefly discusses theories and concepts such as technological convergence and augmented reality that influence the adoption of a particular emerging technology. These concepts help stimulate strategic thinking on which technology is suitable for a particular library, considering the user needs and availability of technical skills among the librarians. It gives guidance on how to obtain knowledge of the technology and gives references for further reading on each topic. The chapters have been written by experts in the field who are either using the technology or have written about the technology in other journals. At the same time, the content is written well enough that most librarians could understand and discuss it.

Within some of the chapters the contributors' Northern American worldview dominates, making it hard to picture where some of the initiatives would fit within other information contexts. This is especially true for the academic library examples. Overall, this book will appeal to library managers and staff, LIS students and all in between. The topics are broad enough that all within the GLAM sector will be able to connect with the content.

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Library Analytics and Metrics: Using Data to Drive Decisions and Services

Edited by Ben Showers
Facet
London
2015
176 pp.
£49.95 soft cover
ISBN 978-1-85604-965-8.
Review DOI 10.1108/EL-09-2015-0168

The structure of this book is a little unusual, but this reviewer found it worked very well and could be a template for similar books. In an edited work, it is common for each chapter to be the work of different authors, but that is not the case here. Showers has a hand in every chapter; each one starts with an overview that leads into two or three case studies with contributors from the UK, the USA and Australia, followed with a summing up by Showers again. This enables the editor to keep all the contents focussed on the points he believes to be essential to the book's purpose.

After a brief introduction, we are straight into Chapter 1 titled "Library data: big and small", which has the purpose of demonstrating that while big data is currently attracting attention, there is a limit to its use unless we can interpret data on a smaller scale. One case study is on improving the "recommender" system in a University Library catalogue and the other (by Showers) on a shared analytics service for academic