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Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

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Frank D'Andraia, editor. The Academic Library Director: Reflections on a Position in Transition. New York: Haworth Press, 1997. 108 p. \$39.95 hard cover. Published simultaneously as Journal of Library Administration, volume 24, number 3, 1997.

Reviewed by **Henry M. Yaple** (Library Director, Penrose Memorial Library, Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington 99362) <yaple@whitman.edu>

Congratulations to Mr. D'Andraia for this concise volume of essays. The subject is timely; libraries are in a turbulent period of change, and academic library directors are confronted with great challenges and opportunities. The essays D'Andraia has selected or elicited from the authors are informative, perceptive, and expressed in clear, straight-forward prose. The first essay by **Paul Kobulnicky** on the interim or acting library director is pointed and prescient. **Karen Hatcher's** careful examination of men's and women's career paths to academic library directorships clearly indicates that some positive changes have occurred for women and for men.

Rebecca Martin's essay is an admirable exposition. She delineates the forces of change in higher education, and notes quite correctly that the ability to manage change within the library and in the broader campus environment is absolutely crucial to the

contemporary library director's success. **Dean Brittingham's** perspective as a non-librarian is valuable. She describes how the vacant position of dean of libraries became vice provost and dean of university libraries at her institution, the **University of Rhode Island**. Her perception that the new position will focus on use and impact of information instead of on collection development and access, as in the traditional library paradigm, is especially important. The succeeding essay by **Joel Clemmer, Macalester College**, shows how small liberal arts college libraries differ sharply from research libraries. He explains these differences by way of interviews with librarians who left research libraries to become directors of small college libraries.

D'Andraia reflects carefully and eloquently upon the issues confronting contemporary higher education, their libraries, and those who direct them; he poses the correct question, not whether academic libraries should change, but if libraries can effect necessary change. Clearly, they must.

This collection of essays should be invaluable to different kinds of readers. It should inform aspiring library directors. It should improve the skill and ability of incumbent library directors to lead and manage change. It should materially assist administrators, faculty, and librarians searching for those rare individuals who can become excellent library directors in this period of turbulence and change.

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