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Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings

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been since the beginning. We're committed to providing the best on the eBook side, and that's where we're going to remain focused.

ATG: *You have a long history with eBooks, beginning with netLibrary, I believe. Do you use eBooks? What applications do you find the most useful?*

RR: I'm on the road quite a bit, so I really get the most advantage from our MyiLibrary Audio platform. I can download audiobooks to my iPhone and take them with me wherever I go. It's really convenient.

ATG: *I believe that the market for eBooks is currently very small, except perhaps in Asia and India. The number I have seen is 4-5% of the book market. Is this an accurate figure? Why is the uptake on eBooks so small?*

RR: Those numbers might even be inflated, depending on the source. eBooks are still a niche product in its infancy. Part of the reasoning is because there are so many formats and so much inconsistency among publishers as to the best way to protect and deliver eBooks. Until a standard is universally adopted, similar to the music business, it will remain a niche product. That said, there's still unprecedented growth and opportunity for those who are ready to jump on the bandwagon. The library market is actually one of the areas where there has been a major shift towards eBooks due to the simplicity and low cost to acquire, store, and distribute this type of content.

against the grain people profile

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BORN & LIVED: Born in Chicago. I've had the opportunity to live in quite a few locations during my career, both in and out of the United States.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I love to play tennis and am an avid reader.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *Flatlands*, *Billy Bunter*, *Blandings*.

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: Overcomplexity and lousy signage and bad spelling.

PHILOSOPHY: Treat people as you would like to be treated. 🐼

ATG: *Will we ever have a standard format for an eBook or an eBook reader platform?*

RR: There is a huge opportunity for the entire industry if a standard can be reached. I don't believe we'll see a coming together anytime soon. However, it's inevitable that we'll eventually get to that point.

ATG: *Please look down the road and tell us what you see in libraries in, say, 10 years.*

RR: I think libraries will continue to evolve into a resource for all varieties of

content and information. As the world becomes more and more virtual, there will be a greater emphasis on making more and better digital content available regardless of format. Libraries will have more to say in the usage of devices and other delivery mechanisms. Library "customers" will demand it, whether public or academic, and the libraries who can make the transition sooner will be in the driver's seat. 🐼

Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

Column Editor: **Debbie Vaughn** (College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

Column Editor's Note: *I am never-endingly impressed with innovations in library instruction. The Library Instruction Cookbook, reviewed this month by ATG reviewer Joey van Arnhem, offers a myriad of ideas and suggestions for active learning in the library. How timely, given that the summer offers many librarians an opportunity to review and refresh lesson plans, class notes, and even syllabi.*

If The Library Instruction Cookbook whets your appetite, might I also suggest a number of pre-conferences and sessions being offered at the ALA Annual Conference?

- *Practical Pedagogy for Library Instructors: Designing Innovative Library Instruction* (Friday, June 25, 1:00-4:30) *You might still be able to register onsite
- *Yours, Mine and Ours: Moving Students through the Information Literacy Ladder from High School through Community College to the College/University Level* (Saturday, June 26, 1:30-3:30)
- *Library Instruction Live! Reaching Distance Students in Real Time* (Sunday, June 27, 10:30-12:00)
- *Question, Find, Evaluate, Apply: Translating Evidence Based Practice to Information Literacy Instruction* (Sunday, June 27, 1:30-3:30)

Happy instructing, happy conferencing, and happy reading, everyone! — DV

Cook, Douglas, and Ryan L. Sittler. *The Library Instruction Cookbook.* Chicago: ACRL, 2009. 978-0-8389-8511-3. 196 pages. \$48.00.

Reviewed by **Jolanda-Pieta (Joey) van Arnhem, MFA** (Instructor and Training Coordinator, College of Charleston Libraries) <vanarnhemj@cofc.edu>



The Library Instruction Cookbook is a great resource for anyone looking

for innovative ways to incorporate interactive, engaging learning in the many facets of library instruction. The book, edited by **Ryan Sittler** and **Douglas Cook**, is designed around the premise that "students learn best by being actively involved, rather than sitting and listening to Librarian-Speak for an hour." The editors selected "recipes" submitted by librarians worldwide that encompass many aspects of library instruction, with chapters including Library Orientation, Basic Library Skills, Citations and Plagiarism, Evaluating Resources, Specialized Research Skills, Discipline Related Research, and Technology.

Each activity, organized in easy-to-use recipes, concretely ties learning objectives to *ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education*, addresses changing user expectations, and facilitates the

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Guide-on-the-Side approach to teaching. Each recipe is constructed to provide students with the opportunity to actively process information in new and personally meaningful ways. Recipes include “Nutrition Information,” which provides the instructor with clear and concrete learning outcomes for each activity, and “Cooking Time and Preparation,” which includes all the necessary ingredients to adopt the activity successfully. The “Instruction Session” information breaks down each activity into manageable time chunks, keeping the activity on track and aiding in classroom time management. Perhaps my favorite part of the recipes are the “Allergy Warnings” and “Chef’s Notes,” which provide insightful alternatives and helpful tips to keep students engaged and interested in the subject matter, an immense

help for instructors dealing with the real-world instructional challenges of today’s multitasking, technology-adept students.

Sittler and Cook’s library instruction recipes provide a simple, modular approach that can be implemented in their entirety or in parts to supplement existing instruction. Additionally, instructors can use the activities to help refocus lessons on digital literacy, collaborative learning, and real world application of concepts taught. The selection and care taken by the editors to provide current, contemporary learning activities is also apparent, as *The Library Instruction Cookbook* provides numerous activities that deal with all forms of digital literacy, including the use of bibliographic management software, mindmapping, blogging, clickers, wikis, tagging, and Webcasts. Additionally, activities like *The Sous Chef Takes Center Stage: Using Experienced Students to Teach their Classmates* include the use of peer

instruction, providing the experienced student with a voice and acknowledgment.

This collection of best practices is a valuable practical aid for new and experienced instructors alike who are trying to rethink their library instruction curriculum design and delivery. As library services move towards making finding information more like searching on **Google** with discovery search interfaces, students will require additional instruction on developing the critical thinking skills required for them to independently address the varying quality and often overwhelming quantity of information sources available today. *The Library Instruction Cookbook* is a useful tool and great example of the power of collaboration. The collection of recipes provides a diverse range of activities and viewpoints, and is a cogent example of the changing concept of library instruction from show-and-tell to the art and science of finding the right stuff. 

From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29401; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) <gilson@cofc.edu>

Sage’s *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies* (2010, 978-1412914321, \$325) is informed by the notion of urban studies as an academic discipline. As the editors note, this encyclopedia “is intended to present an overview of current work in the field.” At the same time, a quick look at the Reader’s Guide in the first volume also points to a set that is interdisciplinary and international in its approach. In short, this is a reference work that is trying to accomplish a lot. Fortunately, it succeeds.

As you would expect, individual articles treat issues related to urban economics, geography, history, politics, and sociology. But there are also entries that discuss individual topical areas related to architecture, gender and sex, social space, and sustainable development. Other articles deal with subjects connected to urban planning, transportation, and urban culture, as well as those devoted to urban theory. In addition, there are overviews of the “city” during historic periods, as well as discussions of specific cities and persons that are particularly notable ranging from Amsterdam to Venice and from **Saul Alinsky** to **Sir Christopher Wren**. Although intended for a scholarly audience, the articles are written in an accessible style that will

appeal to a variety of readers. Each

entry provides thorough, well researched, and reliable background information on the topic, as well as bibliographies for further exploration. Aside from the already mentioned Reader’s Guide there are “see also” references, as well as a general index that provide a sense of scope and access to specifics.

As noted above, the *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies* succeeds in meeting its lofty goals. It gives users a definite sense of urban studies as a multifaceted discipline while at the same time providing useful information about specific and related topics. Students and other interested readers will find it a valuable starting place. It is a welcomed addition to the reference literature and should appeal to academic and large public libraries.

Libraries needing to bolster their collections in this topic might also consider *Encyclopedia of Urban Cultures: Cities and Cultures around the World* (2002, 978-0717256983, \$399) published by **Grolier**, as well as **Routledge’s *Encyclopedia of the City*** (2005, 978-0415252256, \$295).

The Greenwood Encyclopedia of LGBT Issues Worldwide (2010, 978-0313342332, \$280) is a unique reference that tackles important and controversial issues and does so worldwide. The set discusses LGBT issues in over 80 countries divided broadly among regions including the Americas and the Caribbean, Asia and Oceania, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

LGBT obviously refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people, however it “was chosen for this encyclopedia as a short-hand, yet inclusive, notation for the class of people who experience marginalization and discrimination perpetrated by heterosexual

norms.” Following this broad and inclusive definition, each entry starts with background information about the country itself which is then followed by an overview of the LGBT issues at play. After this overview, individual LGBT issues are discussed including education, employment and economics, social/government programs, sexuality/sexual practice, family, community, health, politics and law, religion and spirituality, and violence. Each entry also provides an outlook for the 21st century. All of the articles are replete with a resource guide and list of bibliographic notes referenced in the text. While the arrangement of the set is logical and the entries are uniform in their structure, nonetheless, there are individual volume indexes, as well as a cumulative index in volume three to provide access. There is also a selected bibliography including Websites as well as a list of contributors to the set with their affiliations.

The Greenwood Encyclopedia of LGBT Issues Worldwide consolidates and provides information not easily found elsewhere and does readers a valuable service by adding to our knowledge and awareness of LGBT issues and concerns. It does so in an easily accessible fashion that will have equal appeal to lay readers, high school students, and undergraduates. Hopefully, any future editions will be able to broaden its coverage and include even more countries.

Libraries interested in treatments of LGBT issues in the United States will find **Scribner’s *Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History in America*** (2004, 0-684-31261-1, \$400), as well as **Greenwood’s** recent set *LGBTQ America Today* (2009, 9780313339905, \$349.95), also worth considering.

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