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Book Reviews-Monographic Musings

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Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

Column Editor: **Regina Gong** (Open Educational Resources (OER) Project Manager/Head of Technical Services and Systems, Lansing Community College Library) <gongr1@lcc.edu>

Column Editor's Note: *By the time this issue comes out, it will be spring with the semester almost at the end, at least for us here at LCC. Because I have way too much on my plate this semester, I was not able to read and review new books as much as I'd like to. Coincidentally, my regular reviewers also were asking me if they could take some time out from reviewing new books since they were way too busy as well. So I'm having these piles of new books being sent my way and not enough reviewers to read them. Hopefully, as the semester draws to a close, I can come back to writing reviews myself as well as my other book reviewers. Of course, if you are so inclined to help me out, I encourage you to reach out to me and tell me the subjects you're most interested in so I can match you with the book I have on hand.*

Just send me an email if you're interested and you're well on your way to becoming a reviewer for ATG. Hope you enjoy this month's review and as always, happy reading. — RG

Holden, Jesse. *Acquisitions: Core Concepts and Practices.* 2nd ed., Chicago, IL: Neal-Schuman, 2017. 9780838914601. 152 pages. \$85.00.

Reviewed by **Ashley Fast Bailey** (Director, Collection Development and Workflow Solutions, Central US, GOBI Library Solutions) <abailey@ybp.com>

In *Acquisitions: Core Concept and Practices*, **Jesse Holden** updates and builds upon the first edition of this work. The second edition has significant changes from the first and draws upon the “assemblage theory” to frame the work of acquisitions. Since the first edition, there have been a number of changes in the acquisitions area. By using his first work as a base, he adds in additional concepts to enhance the work. **Holden**, former Head of Acquisitions at the **University of Southern California** and currently an Account Services Manager for **ESBCO**, takes the “assemblage theory” and illustrates how it applies to acquisitions.

Holden begins by laying the framework of core concepts of acquisitions before he embarks on the chapters of assemblage. In the overview, he defines all the terms and concepts that he will build on in this work. By defining information, collection, acquisitions, theory, and ethics, **Holden** insures the reader is thinking about each of the concepts the same way as he dives into applying “assemblage theory” to library acquisitions. He notes that acquisitions in its most basic functions is the ordering, receiving, accessing, and payment for content, but that to be successful in today's ecosystem it goes beyond this.

After the introduction, **Holden** dives into the assemblages that make up acquisitions: access, discovery, feedback and service. For the “assemblage of access,” he describes this one as the most fundamental. Collecting content in a library has always been a core function. The shift in what and how we collect directly affects acquisitions. This assemblage grows more complex with the variety of materials, formats, and content that is collected. Acquisitions works with many different avenues to bring content in the collection — from traditional book vendors, to subscription agents, to direct purchases — acquisitions must stay flexible based on format and avenue to allow for variations in different ways of collection. They must also partner and work with their providers in an ethical and productive manner. Being able to effectively and practically manage the content coming into the library and provide access to its users is the big picture. In today's library acquisitions landscape, an acquisitions librarian must evaluate and work with many different options for bringing in content to the library to meet the collections requirements. Being able to navigate the myriad of options and formats requires the librarian and library to be proactive and dynamic.

Moving along to the “assemblage of discovery,” **Holden** focuses on the discovery layers and types of content: print and eBook options.

He goes into detail on handling and managing these two formats in the acquisitions department. Since acquisitions straddles many areas of the library, this group is closely entwined with multiple areas within the library. This section of the work goes into details on various formats, focusing heavily on eBooks and purchasing options/models and management of that format. Since acquisitions plays a key role in connecting the users with the content the library owns, they play an increasing role in ensuring that access for the users is available. This complex process can play across multiple departments within a library, thus acquisitions needs to build in and have the flexibility to be a part of this process.

The last assemblage that **Holden** categorizes is the “assemblage of feedback and service.” Acquisitions should be constantly reviewing and making sure that the practices it employs are up to date, efficient, and meeting expectations of the library and user base. Along with insuring access and discoverability, it has the facet of service. **Holden** writes that for service and feedback, staff, technology-driven tools, acquisition plans, and measurable mechanisms of feedback play a part. It is important that feedback is gathered and evaluated so that the acquisitions department stays in a cycle of improvement and relevance. Acquisitions work is complex and as new formats, models and ways of collecting are added to the mix, adapting and contributing to the process is key.

Wrapping up the work, **Holden** pulls all the assemblages together and goes into detail on managing acquisitions holistically. Giving various considerations and thoughts on the face of acquisitions today, he concludes that rather than conducting acquisitions in the same way the library world always has, we should take this time to radicalize our approach. Acquisitions should evaluate current processes and approaches within the context of today's ecosystem and move away from models based on fixed linearity of process or presumed standardizations. Acquisitions work today should focus on the growing amount and formats of information. With the ever-changing technologies, acquisitions should be proactive and flexible in the library's overall assemblage.

Jost, Richard M. *Selecting and Implementing an Integrated Library System: The Most Important Decision You Will Ever Make.* Chandos Information Professional Series. Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Chandos Publishing, 2016. 9780081001530. 112 pages. \$78.95.

Reviewed by **Dao Rong Gong** (Systems Librarian, Michigan State University Libraries) <gongd@msu.edu>

How can one approach the task of choosing a new library system? This book answers it through the lens of system librarianship. It aims to fill in the need for a short overview of the bolts and nuts of system implementation where the takeaways are not only limited to the knowledge needed in carrying out such a task but also takes into account the technological environment where library operation takes place.

The author **Richard M. Jost** is currently the Information Systems Coordinator at the **University of Washington Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library** in Seattle. He also has an extensive experience working in technical services in various libraries. The book demonstrates good perspectives about technology and other works from the backend of library operation. The book demonstrates perspectives about the integrated library system and technical works from the backend of library operation. The audience can be library staff who need to know about

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the library technology component, and where to look at should they ever consider moving to a new library system. The goal of the book is to help library staff understand “selecting a system that meets the library’s current needs and yet is flexible enough for the future” (p. 99).

The author starts off by using the famous quote “technology is easy, people are hard” which he uses in some chapters to talk about managing change among staff. **Jost** also focuses on the human quality of systems librarianship. He stresses the importance of finding the right person who will carry out and oversee a library systems project and as much as possible, hiring a dedicated person to manage an automation project. To illustrate this need further, he provides a discussion of the position, skills, roles, including how the position is situated in an organization and how it relates to other jobs. It also discusses the role of the Human Resources department in the hiring process where it is important to consider past experience and the ability to see what the “real” problems are in the system. Another chapter provides a discussion of “staffing the library of the future.” The author lists some qualities that are considered as “intangible traits” in systems librarians and in any library staff. Qualities such as: adaptability, inquisitiveness, irreverence, confidence, collegiality, and versatility go a long way in ensuring success in a system migration role a staff plays in the library.

On to the bigger library landscape discussion, **Jost** tries to bring the emerging trends to the thought process in choosing a library system that includes changes in technologies, information format, publishing practices, patron browsing or reading habits. Half of the 14 chapters are devoted to the overview of library operations, interworking and staffing in libraries which then provides a good foundation for readers to understand the many intricacies of library operations. It contains a useful chapter about writing Request for Proposals (RFP) as well as chapters on needs assessment and the library automation marketplace that references the annual Library Technology Report by **Marshall Breeding**. There is also a case study about the **Orbis Cascade** project in the appendix that illustrates a real life example of choosing a library system in a collaborative consortial network environment. Considering the title of the book, the discussion about selecting and implementing a library system may look sparse for readers who want to know more. This book will probably not provide you everything you need to know, but is still a worthwhile read for those considering a migration to a new system.

Brown, Nicole E., Kaila Bussert, Denise Hattwig, and Ann Madaille. *Visual Literacy for Libraries: A Practical Standards-based Guide*. Chicago, IL: ALA Editions, 2016. 9780838913819. 208 pages. \$70.00.

Reviewed by **Margaret M. Kain** (Reference Librarian for Education, University of Alabama at Birmingham Libraries) <pkain@uab.edu>

Visual Literacy for Libraries, a practical, standards-based guide, is not an edited book or an anthology but rather the collaborative work of four practicing librarians. Using the ACRL Visual Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as a stepping off point, authors **Brown, Bussert, Hattwig** and **Medaille** offer readers useful information, insights with food-for-thought on using visual materials in the classroom, and ways to engage students in scholarly research. The use of images and promotion of visual literacy is a natural extension of information literacy.

Split into six chapters, *Visual Literacy* guides the reader through the basics of connecting the dots between visual literacy and pedagogy; including ways to locate and use images in addition to written content in scholarly research projects. It begins with information about interpreting, analyzing images and graphs and demonstrating how images or graphs may be used to provide an effective image of complex data. Authors explain how understanding the social and cultural impact of images is important as it could potentially affect the way images will be received; adding descriptive text to help clarify images is important.

Next, the discussion focuses on locating or finding an image that will convey the tone and content of what is being communicated including creating and using images to enhance presentations. The authors further explore the ways images help make a presentation more memorable. Images serve not only the idea but the tone of the communication. Exploring the impact of the color and content of an image; the technology used to create or edit an image. The ethical use of images is the focus of the fourth chapter. Authors provide an overview of image copyright; practical information on the fair use debate; plus, how to interpret terms of use and the ethics of image sharing. Subsequent chapter discusses the importance of citing images and properly crediting the source of images which is a topic that works hand in hand with ethical use and copyright. This chapter opens the door to a discussion on the scholarly communication process and citing of images using **MLA** and **APA** styles. The final chapter examines the role images play in the research process. Exploring how images may be used to further research; how to review and evaluate a source, an image, graph or a map.

Written as a working practice tool, each chapter contains standard practical reference features. Questions authors have identified as *foundational questions* begin the conversation by providing a list of thought-provoking questions and short answers. These questions are designed to encourage discussion and exploration of information relating to visuals or images. *Coffee breaks* provide librarians with food for thought. The sections contain short activities that serve as starting points for incorporating visual literacy into the classroom, presentations, and in student teachable moments. The *more to explore* section offers additional resources on topics discussed in the chapter. These resource lists are provided as tools to assist the reader developing their own visual literacy resource guides. Rounding out the content is a *visual literacy in action* section that contains outcome driven activities and worksheets. The activities in this section are mapped to the ACRL Visual Literacy Competency Standards and Performance Indicators; the ACRL Visual Standards are conveniently included in an Appendix.

Visual Literacy is a handbook that provides the teaching librarian an overview of key areas and the how-to for incorporating images, graphs or maps in scholarly research. Authors provide practical tips, thought provoking questions, plus useful worksheets and activities for pairing visual literacy with information literacy in scholarly research and presentations. *Visual Literacy for Libraries* is a wonderful practice tool and recommended reading for all librarians.

Anderson, Rick. *Libraries, Leadership, and Scholarly Communication: Essays*. Chicago, IL: ALA Editions, 2016. 9780838914335. 220 pages. \$67.00.

Reviewed by **Don Todaro** (Director of Reference/Research and Collections Management, Library of Michigan) <todarod@michigan.gov>

The thirty-seven essays in this varied collection by **Rick Anderson** originally appeared as columns, white papers, contributions to professional blogs, and briefing papers. Most are fairly recent pieces, having appeared in the last few years, and for the most part they are quick reads of four to six pages, with an occasional more extended piece interspersed. **Anderson**, an Associate Dean for Collections and Scholarly Communication in the **J. Willard Marriott Library** at the **University of Utah**, is a prolific writer and a well-known speaker on libraries and scholarly communication. This collection amply reflects his wide-ranging views on library management, the scholarly communication ecology, and the multifarious challenges libraries face today.

The essays are grouped into two sections, each comprising about half of the book, one under the rubric, “Libraries and Their Collections, Now and in the Future,” and the other titled “Scholarly Communication and Library-Publisher Relations.” **Anderson** comes at a variety of questions in the first section from a big-picture management perspective, often basing his arguments on the strategic deployment of resources and the best use of staff time and effort, whether discussing patron-driven acquisitions (PDA), the shift to digital from “commodity books,” new uses of library space, the demise of the print *Encyclopedia Britannica*,

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the redesign of reference services, or cataloging and serials workflows. He discusses library practices in ways that may, at times, be contentious or unpopular, such as when he questions the requirement by some special collections departments that patrons obtain permission from the library in order to republish, in whole or part, items held by them that are in the public domain. A key theme that runs through the essays in this first section is the alignment of our decision-making with our professional values as librarians. Indeed, there is a thoughtful essay devoted solely to the topic of values, specifically ALA's "Core Values of Librarianship" statement. A related emphasis in many of the pieces is the alignment of programs and services to the institutional mission of the parent organization, and **Anderson** offers guidance on ways to accomplish this.

Essays in the second section extend the general interest in management topics found in the first and look at scholarly communication issues as well as vendor relations. **Anderson** identifies the "distorted signals" in the publishing marketplace that lead libraries, authors, readers, and journal publishers to act independently of each other, often to no good end, and which result in publishers having little incentive to control pricing. In an essay written in 2013, the idea of academia "taking back" publishing is addressed. Here **Anderson** explores several possibilities of how that might occur before he reaches the conclusion that none of the scenarios would likely happen any time soon. An essay on the fundamental differences between advocacy and analysis, and the proper role of each, illuminates later discussions about other topics, notably open access (OA). OA is covered in a relatively long essay for the volume (15 pages), as well as in several short pieces. The **Creative Commons** Attribution license and copyright are also discussed in several separate essays. Additional pieces focus on predatory publishing practices, print-on-demand, article processing charge (APC) and subventions, dealing with sales reps, and pricing models used by vendors.

Throughout the essays, **Anderson** combines a direct, conversational style with crisp, analytic arguments that make for enjoyable and informative reading on topics both large and small. He distills complex topics well, often in a very short space, does justice to the essentials of competing arguments on an issue, and delivers his judgements persuasively. While readers will no doubt find points of disagreement or remain unpersuaded on some topics, especially some advocates of OA, **Anderson** wrestles with many tough issues in an accessible, often convincing fashion. I highly recommend this book.

Hubbard, Melissa A., Robert H. Jackson, and Arnold Hirshon, eds. *Forging the Future of Special Collections*. Chicago, IL: ALA Neal-Schuman, 2016. 9780838913864. 202 pages. \$85.00.

Reviewed by **Mary Jo Zeter** (Latin American and Caribbean Studies Bibliographer, Michigan State University Libraries)
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Forging the Future of Special Collections brings together essays inspired by a 2014 colloquium on special collections hosted by the **Kelvin Smith Library at Case Western Reserve University** in Cleveland, Ohio. Co-editors **Melissa A. Hubbard** and **Arnold Hirshon** are Head of Special Collections and Archives at the **Kelvin Smith Library** and University Librarian at **Case Western Reserve** respectively; **Robert H. Jackson** was the first Kelvin Smith Library Distinguished Visiting Scholar. The 2014 colloquium itself evolved from a Rare Book Forum at the **Library of Congress** in 2001, "Private Collections and Special Collections Libraries." In his introduction to the present volume, **Jack-son**, a bibliophile and noted collector, harkens back to the conclusion of a talk he gave at the 2001 Forum, namely that the future of special collections lies in the building and nurturing of relationships between

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librarians/archivists and collectors/donors. That sentiment is a unifying theme expressed throughout the collected essays as well.

The first of three sections, Part I consists of six essays on the changing roles of special collections professionals from the varied perspectives of collectors, donors, librarians and archivists. A practical essay by **Jim Kuhn (University of Rochester, River Campus Libraries)**, for example, discusses best practices related to acquisitions, particularly of gifts-in-kind, such as the value of posted collection policy statements *not* limited to building upon existing strengths and of collaboration with neighboring and regional institutions. **Melissa A. Hubbard's** essay on community-based collections is a case study of the **Cleveland Play House** archives gifted to **Case Western Reserve** in 2012. It offers valuable insights into the ways in which special collections professionals can not only provide institutional researchers with access to community history, but also build on-going relationships with the communities that originally collected the materials and that continue to make use of them.

The seven essays in Part II focus on ways in which digitization and digital scholarship influence collections and use of physical materials. Scholar and bibliophile **Paul Ruxin** makes an impassioned plea for the special collections library to be "the center for the underutilized, underappreciated, understudied, but profoundly learned discipline of descriptive bibliography," (p. 70) that is, the close physical description

of a book or other printed material as object, including details of typography, binding, paper, etc. He argues that the practice of descriptive bibliography integrates the book as text and the book as object, providing information that cannot be discerned from a digital surrogate and that immeasurably benefits users of special collections materials. On the other hand, **Alice Schreyer (Newberry Library)** writes that when a large collection of historic Homer editions was donated to the **University of Chicago** (where she was then Associate University Librarian for Area Studies and Special Collections) in 2007, a decision was taken to publish a scholarly catalog of the collection highlighting copy-specific information and studying translation history and the transmission of the text through editions. Her essay goes on to relate how several bibliographical puzzles that emerged in the course of working with the donation were solved, in one case with crowd sourcing and digital corpora. **Stephen Enniss** (Harry Ransom Center, **University of Texas**) explores the challenges posed by born-digital materials that are appearing in author archives in an engaging essay that concludes the section.

The four essays that make up Part III focus on the new, front and center role of special collections in the academic library landscape. Provost Professor of English **Christoph Irmischer (Indiana University-Bloomington)**, for example, shares details of a special collections-based capstone course he taught using the resources of the **Lilly Library**, including descriptions of fascinating student projects. **Irmischer's** essay, like many in this volume, will inspire special collections librarians and archivists as well as librarians with subject expertise or technical knowledge that are interested in collaborating with them. 🐾

Booklover — Burnt by the Sun

Column Editor: **Donna Jacobs** (Retired, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC 29425)
<donna.jacobs55@gmail.com>

The 1994 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film was awarded to a Russian film entitled "Burnt by the Sun." I attended a showing of this film in Charleston at one of the small indie theaters that functioned in Charleston during the 1990s. I had the privilege of being in the company of Russian speaking friends who immediately gave me a perspective of the meaning of the film's title. Stand too close to an idea, philosophy, concept, dogma, or teaching and you can be "burnt." The critics of the film describe the sun as **Stalin** and "burnt" as losing oneself inside a totalitarian regime. Seeing **Ivan Bunin's** short story entitled "Sunstroke" in "Great Stories by Nobel Prize Winners" reopened my memory of this film. I was "burnt" by this movie and "Sunstroke" was drawing me into the sun again.

Ivan Alekseyevich Bunin won the 1933 **Nobel Prize in Literature** "for the strict artistry with which he has carried on the classical Russian traditions in prose writing." He had the distinction of being the first Russian writer to be honored with the prize



and the Parisian community celebrated with accounts in the newspaper: "You see, up until then we, émigrés, felt like the bottom stuff there. Then all of a sudden our writer was being given an internationally acknowledged prize! And not for some political scribbblings, but for real prose!" Oddly, the date is mistakenly noted as 1931 in "Great Stories by Nobel Prize Winners" which speaks to the strict necessity of proofreaders and vetting. But I digress. **Bunin** was born in the province of Voronezh, Russia in 1870. According to his autobiography, he was from an "old and noble" house that produced politicians, artists, and poets. Rural life experiences were dominant in his writing. His travels through the Ukraine enhanced the introduction to folklore given to him by his mother. However, it was **Tolstoy**, one of **Bunin's** influencers and inspirers, who cautioned him from "total peasantification." **Bunin** died "stateless" in Paris, France in 1953.

He self professed the difficulty of living in "the new world" of post — Bolshevik Russia.

In the short paragraph introduction to "Sunstroke," **Somerset Maugham** describes this little piece of prose as one of the world's best stories. How can you not be intrigued? The story opens:

"They had had their dinner, and they left the brilliantly lighted dining room and went on deck, where they paused by the rail. She closed her eyes and, palm turned outward, pressing her hand to her cheek, laughed with unaffected charm. Everything was charming about this little woman." The lieutenant fascinated with this "little woman" with her sunburn smell suggested exiting the boat once it docked for an interlude. His desire for her to stay afterwards and her desire to continue her cruise without him was punctuated with the thought — "Please believe me, I'm not at all the sort of woman I may have led you to think. All that happened here never happened before and never will again. It's as if I suffered an eclipse...Or, to be more precise, it's as if we both experienced something in the nature of a sunstroke."

I am grateful to my Russian-speaking friends who gave me not only the translation to the film's title "Burnt by the Sun" — "Утомленные солнцем" (*Utomlyonnye solntsem*, literally "wearied by the sun"), but also the perspective of its meaning. On occasion, I have been "burnt" by amazing prose that made me pause. Cure for a sunburn, sunstroke, or too much sun? Continued diversity of my reading material. Thank you Nobel laureates. 🐾

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the survey was carried out in partnership with 10 publishers including **Cambridge University Press**, **The IET**, **De Gruyter** and **SAGE Publishing**. The survey, which had over 7,500

researcher respondents, shows that usage of scholarly collaboration networks (SCNs, such as ResearchGate and Academia.edu), for uploading articles is widespread, and that accessing full text content is the primary reason, ahead of finding and connecting with other researchers.

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