August 2014

Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings

Debbie Vaughn
College of Charleston, vaughd@cofc.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg
Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5561

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.
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:* Have you 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.

*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 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 on site*
- *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*


Reviewed by *Jolanda-Pieta (Joey) van Arnhem,* MFA (Instructor and Training Coordinator, College of Charleston Libraries) <vanarnhemj@cofc.edu>
help for instructors dealing with the real-world instructional challenges of today’s multitask, technology-adapt students.

Sitter 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 looking to rethink their library instruction delivery and design. 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.


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.

Against the Grain / June 2010 <http://www.against-the-grain.com> 47

continued on page 48