
Dority, adjunct faculty for the MLIS program at University of Denver, returns with this second edition of her 2006 book on employment opportunities for librarians and information professionals. The book provides an overview of career options in libraries and in less traditional settings that call on information skills. According to the author, it is essential to reframe one’s skillset from “librarianship” to “information work.” Questions and suggested activities are integrated throughout to enable readers to pinpoint strengths and needs for improvement, identify job preferences, and develop a career plan. The book is directed toward those starting their careers in library and information science, or hoping to make a change to or within those fields. Resource lists at the end of each chapter consisting of books, articles, online resources, and other information provide additional reading.

Most of the content is largely the same as the already very useful first edition. Dority includes an updated introduction that notes recent changes in professional-level employment opportunities for librarians; for example, the existence of fewer full-time librarian positions in school and public libraries and increased competition for full-time positions in all libraries. She also includes a chapter emphasizing the importance of and strategies for networking and branding. This book is interesting and valuable reading for librarians, especially school librarians who might be facing district cuts, and would also be of interest to educators considering a career change to librarianship. Regarding library purchasing, this book is more appropriate for a college-level career collection since librarianship generally requires a graduate degree. Given the similarity in content, the updated edition might not be worth the investment if a library already owns the first.

—Samantha Godsey


Since 2010, *The Accidental Taxonomist* has been identified as the most comprehensive guide available on the art and science of building information taxonomies. In this fully revised second edition, author and expert Hedden once again walks readers through the entire process, presenting highly technical information in a straightforward, comprehensible style, including updates on taxonomy standards, development techniques, and career opportunities for taxonomists. The author says the advent of a tremendous number of changes in existing software availabilities and capabilities, and their effects on related industry trends and standards, necessitated this new edition. All concepts related to creating terms and their relationships, the use of both computer-generated and manual systems, designing a system, then displaying, implementing, and updating it can be found here.

This is a fascinating area that may be a bit beyond the ken of some librarians, but if such librarians were to need to examine the profession or had to develop a plan for the creation of subject headings list and define its methodologies, this definitive text would be the place to begin. The appendix includes a job survey of working taxonomists, a glossary of existing terminologies, thorough citations from recent literature and web resources, and a comprehensive index.

—Kevin Beach


The latest edition of this well-known textbook incorporates discussions of how the adoption of the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards impact collection development and management; revises updates bibliographic references and resources; and adds information on digital resources and new technologies. Mardis also provides a selection of examples that represent best practices collected from the archives of the widely used list-serv, LM_NET. The fundamentals of collection development are centered around the role of the school librarian and the school library program with reference to the professional standards of the American Association of School Librarians. Topics addressed in eighteen chapters include analyzing the needs of the community with respect to diversity and access to the collection; developing a collection to support the curriculum; circulation policies; criteria for evaluating materials; and legal and ethical issues. There are explanations and discussions on national learning standards in the chapter on supporting the curriculum that addresses the implementation, instructional shifts, and controversies of the CCSS followed by a discussion of new national science standards in which the importance of the cooperation of school librarians and science teachers in inquiry-based science programs is emphasized. Topics covered in the chapter on the learning environment include the “information commons” and “makerspaces.” Each chapter concludes with additional readings, media resources, and discussion questions. Numerous charts and diagrams, plus the liberal use of lists and sub-headings, contribute to an accessible text that is invaluable both for teaching and for the professional development of school librarians.

—Hilary Crew


Customizing Vendor Systems for Better User Experiences provides an in-depth, yet easy-to-follow overview of applying minimal coding to customize user interfaces of library systems. With a goal of enabling experienced librarians to modify third-party systems beyond the practice of branding with color and logos, this guide introduces coding in JavaScript, CSS, JQuery, and bookmarklets from basic to advanced. Also included are guides for using Internet browser developer tools to further customize the user experience, helping librarians to direct users to services and information pertaining to a specific library or library system. Emphasizing the value of coalescing online library assets, experienced librarians will use this guide as a how-to for creating a consistent, overall library brand.

From The Innovative Librarian’s Guide series, Reidstra clearly outlines the process for creating a seamless and branded look of third-party systems used in today’s libraries. Written with practicality in mind, Reidstra provides helpful codes that librarians can apply directly to their own systems to achieve cohesion while also deftly explaining the when and why of these processes. This is not a philosophical guide but one with applicable information delivered in a simple tutorial-type format. Basic to advanced developer skills in HTML or other coding may be necessary before reading, but this is a must for any experienced librarian initiating or continuing system customization. Included are notes and an index.—Erin Segreto


The authors’ preface clearly explains the need for an all-encompassing guide for the management of electronic resources for librarians and for those studying to become librarians. What they have created is their own textbook