

Herring does not address it. Those who agree with Herring might find his meanderings amusing. Anyone who enjoyed his first book might also find value in *Are Libraries Obsolete*, as it reiterates many of the same points.—*Melissa De Fino* ([mdefino@rulmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:mdefino@rulmail.rutgers.edu)), *Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey*

### References

1. Mark Y. Herring, "10 Reasons Why the Internet is No Substitute for a Library," *American Libraries* 32, no. 4 (2001): 76–78.
2. Ibid.

***Floating Collections: A Collection Development Model for Long-Term Success.*** By Wendy K. Bartlett. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited, 2014. 128 p. \$55 paperback (ISBN: 978-1-59884-743-7).

In these uncertain economic times, library administrators are often faced with tough budget decisions. They are encouraged to "think outside the box" for creative strategies to help cut costs while not diminishing services to library patrons. Wendy Bartlett's *Floating Collections: A Collection Development Model for Long-Term Success* offers one such creative and thought-provoking strategy, particularly for public library systems. Bartlett defines a floating collection as "a system-wide collection wherein there is no owning branch designation" (xiii). She explains the history of floating collections and suggests floating as a cost-cutting measure for libraries facing budget challenges. Savings from floating accrue from the lack of expenses to process, ship, and reroute books and media back to their home branch. Moreover, shelving can be done promptly, and patrons are satisfied as material is available more quickly and not perpetually in transit. To help libraries decide whether floating is right for them, Bartlett offers the "Library Float Evaluation" checklist, which a library would complete only after reading about the advantages and disadvantages of floating. Bartlett has experienced these issues; she writes with a clear desire to make it easy for the next group of libraries to make informed decisions whether or not to float their collections.

Rather than a manifesto on the merits of floating, this book is written to illuminate the variables to be considered within a library system and to reinforce the concomitant need for good communications at all levels. Bartlett offers guidance about communicating with staff prior to implementing a floating collection. She encourages visits to library branches so staff understand what a floating collection will mean for their workflows. She discusses new and positive workflows for shelving, weeding, and running library system reports. Bartlett encourages teamwork, communication, and an open mind so that floating produces less surprise and more positive results for patrons and staff alike.

There is plenty in this book to interest collection development librarians. Floating may be easy to do from the library system point of view, but it changes the approach to purchasing for individual branch collections. She encourages collection development librarians to visit their branches and observe library workflows firsthand. Although Bartlett suggests that collection development librarians weed before floating begins to avoid creating imbalances in collection size across branches, a good portion of the book deals with resulting imbalances that may occur from floating.

*Floating Collections* includes helpful scenarios, charts, and worksheets spread throughout the book and gathered in the appendices. There is also a list of libraries organized by state that have moved to floating, useful for consulting with libraries of comparable type and size.

Bartlett has written the guide on how to float and live to tell the tale. She provides ample guidance for answering staff questions and helping libraries determine whether floating would be a positive initiative financially and for patron service. I recommend this book for large public libraries as well as academic libraries to whom floating appeals.—*Amy Lewontin* ([a.lewontin@neu.edu](mailto:a.lewontin@neu.edu)), *Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts*

***Rethinking Collection Development and Management.*** Eds. Becky Albitz, Christine Avery, and Diane Zabel. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited, 2014. 402 p. \$60 softcover (ISBN: 978-1-61069-305-9); e-book (ISBN: 978-1-61069-306-6).

*Rethinking Collection Development and Management* is an anthology of essays authored by professionals active in the field, broadly conceived. The treatment of each topic is highly contemporary and carries with it the distinct perspective of personal experience. This pronounced subjectivity distinguishes this volume from more directly instructive texts such as Peggy Johnson's *Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management*, 3rd ed. (ALA Editions, 2014). Indeed, the publisher recommends the volume as a supplement to its more traditional textbook counterparts.<sup>1</sup> Taken as a whole the volume seeks to situate contemporary collection development and management as a field evolving in many directions at once.

The volume is divided into four parts, beginning with "Selection and Assessment." This section opens with a chapter aptly titled "Forces Shaping Scholarly Publishing," written by Robert Boissy. The chapter serves to position the twin topics of selection and assessment within the dramatically shifting landscape of scholarly publishing. Following is a chapter by Mark Sandler, which problematizes the historical practice of collecting and collection management. Sandler strongly states that large research libraries function, or attempt to function, under the tyranny of an outmoded specter of assessment, which conflate collection size with

depth and comprehensiveness. The book then moves from this long view to drill down to a discussion of process, with chapters covering subscription databases, weeding in academic and public libraries, as well as trends in MLIS course requirements.

Part two, "Acquisitions," explores specific trends in the acquisition of both print and digital material. It surveys the current acquisitions landscape by first describing the tectonic shift of the "big deal" that continues to impact the focus and buying power of academic libraries. In "The Big Deal and the Future of Journal Licensing in Academic Libraries," Jeffrey Carroll provides a lens through which the reader might better understand the direct impact of large-scale decision making on individual processes we take for granted. The following chapter, "Collection Development between Teaching Mission and Resource Management: The Case of Carleton College," serves to reinforce that, in the implementation of the library's mission, scale is everything. Coauthored by Victoria Morse and Kathy Tezla, the chapter discusses the high level of teaching faculty responsibility for materials selection made within this small private institution. Other highlights of part two include James LaRue's examination of the potential role of self-publishing in the public library, as well as chapters on lease services in public and academic libraries by Kathleen Sullivan and Anne Behler, respectively.

Part three, "Access, Cooperative Efforts, Shared Collections," discusses the current innovative ways libraries have sought to maintain access with the competing concerns of space and budget. In the opening chapter, "Cataloging for Collection Management," Linda Musser and Christopher Walker argue for increased awareness and collaboration in metadata creation across library staff, especially as cataloging departments thin and purchase of shelf-ready materials becomes more prominent. This approach becomes particularly relevant when considering a subsequent chapter, "Rethinking Access to Collections in the Discovery Age" by Jody Condit Fagan and Meris Mandernach, which describes the reliance on metadata for discoverability within these increasingly facile systems. This treatment of access through discovery makes way for a discussion of access through consortial agreements, shared print initiatives, and floating collections. Together these chapters illustrate how traditional sharing by branch or interlibrary loan has evolved to effectively increase a library's purchasing power by changing the vision, and practical definition, of "ownership." The chapter by Karen Greever illustrates how an institution might implement multiple strategies at once. "Floating Collections: Perspectives from an Academic Library" describes how Kenyon

College and Denison University, members of the Five Colleges of Ohio Consortia as well as OhioLINK, developed a floating collection. Greever details the impact floating has had on collection management between the two schools.

Part four, "Preservation and Special Collections," receives the briefest treatment and seems to focus primarily on academic libraries. The topics, however, are given thoughtful treatment. "Thinking About Collection Development in Special Collections" by Stephen Galbraith is an introductory yet thorough discussion of the unique considerations brought to special collections material. Galbraith focuses on the goal of keeping stand-alone special collections viable as libraries continue to balance print and digital materials. Susanne Kellerman's chapter, "Digitization Projects," takes the reader through the logical steps of a digitization workflow, making straightforward that which the layman might find overwhelming. The volume closes with a discussion on digital and print preservation by Jacob Nadal. Using the FRBR hierarchy as a framework, Nadal asks the reader to consider the ambiguities in defining what we seek to preserve. Nadal argues for complementary roles for print and digital preservation in which adequate access to, and comprehensive preservation of, the work is achieved by strategically maintaining multiple manifestations in a collaborative environment.

*Rethinking Collection Development and Management* seeks to cover a lot of ground, and the chapters range from editorial to prescriptive in tone. The unifying thread, however, is the described subjective experiences. Indeed, as an anthology this is not unusual, and the stand-alone quality of each chapter lends the text the supplementary facility advertised. While articles of comparable tone and quality are frequently published in the professional literature, this volume juxtaposes the perspective of the public librarian alongside that of the academic and that of one working in a large research university alongside the small liberal arts college. In this way the reader is given the opportunity to rethink, as it were, his or her own experience of collection development and management in the larger context of an evolving field.—Miriam Nelson ([nelsonm1@ohio.edu](mailto:nelsonm1@ohio.edu)), Ohio University, Athens, Ohio

## Reference

1. See the description section of the book's page in the ABC-CLIO online store. "Rethinking Collection Development and Management," ABC-CLIO, accessed June 8, 2014, [www.abc-clio.com/product.aspx?id=2147554320](http://www.abc-clio.com/product.aspx?id=2147554320).