Book Reviews

Edward Swanson, Editor

The Internet Under the Hood: An Introduction to Network Technologies for Information Professionals. By Robert E. Molyneux. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2003. 309p. $40 paper (ISBN 1-59158-005-6).

Robert Molyneux has set himself the task of introducing the applications of networking technologies in such a manner as to be understood by information professionals whose levels of information systems expertise typically run somewhere from expert to the "dummies" for which the successful series of instructional manuals has been written. It's a daunting assignment, but he's handled it well.

The work is divided into four main sections: overview, technology, applications, and social issues. The overview section contains the basic groundwork information about networks, including a brief history of the development of the Internet. The technology section deals with the pure technology of networking, such as the Open Source Initiative (OSI) model, and contains four lab chapters that go into more technical detail than the chapters that they accompany as well as two case studies. The lab and case study chapters can be skipped by those readers not desiring the more comprehensive level of detail provided without hurting their general understanding of later chapters. The third section deals with applications that utilize networks and the configuration of computers to access and use a network. The last section of the book deals with social and legal issues, such as intellectual property concerns. None of the sections is comprehensive, but Molyneux provides a good introduction, with bibliographies for future reading.

Vocabulary and concepts are explained in reasonable detail throughout, and an excellent glossary is provided to assist in understanding the textual material. As with all works of this type, many paragraphs become so saturated with jargon that, while succinctly explained, they may become overwhelming and tedious to someone totally new to the subject. Molyneux provides much-needed help here, with numerous references to other works for the benefit of both those who crave a more basic approach and others searching for supplementary advanced information.

Although there is little in the way of especially new thoughts or unique insights contained in this work, such is not its purpose, and Molyneux has acted as a compiler of materials, combining information on aspects of his subject that are generally found in several different types of works into one book. This should prove especially useful to beginning information professionals or to information professionals who are either new to networking or who have managed somehow to avoid it but now find themselves no longer in a position to do so. The use made of numerous diagrams and illustrations will be helpful to the beginner in understanding the more complex concepts. All major network operating system environments are discussed briefly in separate chapters, with citations to additional sources so that readers can follow up in more detail those systems in which they are most interested.

Unlike many introductory works on networking, this one is clearly focused on the problems of information professionals; that is to say, it is intended neither for the electrical engineer nor for the home user. This is both its main strength and at the same time a weakness in the work. It means that a great deal of technical information is intended to be provided in a relatively few pages, and unless the reader is truly motivated to learn about networking, the condensed nature of the discussion can present some difficulties. This book is therefore really best for readers who have some knowledge of at least the vocabulary of networking, but want to learn more, or those who have done some trial-and-error networking and now want to gain knowledge of the theory and concepts.

A nice touch is that Web addresses appearing in the book are indicated as being updated at www.molyneux. com. As additional resources come to the author's attention, these are also intended to be made available from this Web site.—*Vicki L. Gregory (gregory@luna.cas.usf.edu), University of South Florida, Tampa*

The Kovacs Guide to Electronic Library Collection Development: Essential Core Subject Collections, Selection Criteria, and Guidelines. By Diane K. Kovacs and Kara L. Robinson. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2004. 251p. $125 paper (ISBN 1-55570-483-2).

This book expands on Kovacs's 2000 book, *Building Electronic Library Collections*.[1] It provides guidelines for collection development of an electronic library (or "e-library"), described by the authors as "a Web-published collection of Web-accessible information resources" (xv). By their definition, an e-library includes not only a collection of information

resources, both free and fee-based, but also access to virtual library services, such as the online catalog, reference services, and document delivery.

The authors' intent in writing this book was to provide a single resource for three major functions of electronic collection development policies. The first is a planning guide for collecting, evaluating, and selecting Web-accessible information resources. The second is an examination of issues related to collection management, including cost, access, and archiving as well as integration of electronic resources with the online catalog, library services, and other databases. The third is a collection development tool, providing practical tips for e-library collection evaluation, selection, and acquisition.

Each chapter includes one or more "E-Library Success Stories," which provide case studies of what the authors consider the best e-library implementations. These were selected to provide a mix of all library types and are described in a way that illustrates how each e-library implements the principles of collection development outlined in the book.

Part I, "Recommended Practices," begins with the basics by outlining general collection development principles for Web-accessible resources. A checklist of questions for Web resource collection development planning includes the purpose of the e-library collection, the subject areas and types of Web-accessible resources to be included, the intended user group, and how the resources will be organized. There is a well-annotated list of Web resource collection tools (both print and electronic).

The chapter on "Integrating the Library and the E-Library" explores areas not always included in overviews of electronic resource collection development: virtual reference and cataloging. The cataloging section provides a helpful overview of why libraries choose to catalog Internet resources and of descriptive catalog-

ing options. However, it implies that cataloging records for many resources are available through vendors such as OCLC. I think that the availability of cataloging records depends on the level of granularity of what is being cataloged. It has been my experience, for example, that cataloging records are fairly readily available for many Web sites, databases, and journals, but not as frequently for reports and other PDF documents. Nor does this section address available options for, and the pros and cons of, purchasing cataloging records for electronic journal packages from vendors other than OCLC—for example, the publisher or a service such as Serials Solutions.

The section on virtual reference is short (five-and-a-half pages) and, frankly, I wonder why it is included. This subject in general is addressed much more comprehensively elsewhere. The authors do not address what in my opinion are the key issues relevant to the topic of this book, such as the collection development of electronic resources. They discuss staffing and software for virtual reference but not the copyright and licensing issues involved in using electronic resources to provide reference service, especially to patrons who are not part of your organization. The last chapter in Part I is a very brief one on licensing basics.

Part II, "Recommended Evaluation Guidelines, Selection Criteria, and Core Collections for Major Subject Areas," focuses on nine broad subject areas: ready-reference; business; jobs and employment; medical; legal; biological sciences; physical sciences, engineering, computer sciences, and technology; social sciences and education; and using the Web for reader's advisory and collection development. This section is extensive, encompassing half the book.

Each chapter includes a section on developing the collection plan for information resources in that subject area; identifying, collecting, and selecting resources; evaluation guide-

lines; selection criteria; one or more "E-Library Success Stories"; a list of references and Web sites cited; an annotated core Web collection on the subject; and a list of Web sites to use as resource collection tools. The evaluation guidelines and selection criteria are not one size fits all—the evaluation guidelines for medical and legal collections include questions as to the importance of security and privacy in your environment—and some selection criteria are broader than others. The success stories are international in scope and include a variety of library types—academic, public, special, and even a school media center.

The book has a companion Web site that provides updates and revisions to the webliographies, bibliographies, and core resource lists for each subject area. Access information is given on the verso of the title page.

Part III, "Web Collection Development Resources," contains annotated lists of Web-accessible tools for librarians. These include collection development-related discussion lists, newsgroups, and blogs; evaluation guides; and multiple subject resource collection tools.

This book contains many excellent features, as well as some others that I question. I found it to be most effective when it focuses on developing collection development policies and plans. A collection development policy for an e-library addresses what purpose the collection will serve and the appropriate evaluation guidelines for that purpose. Selection criteria are derived from the answer to the question of purpose and are arrived at during the collection planning process. The e-library success stories do not merely describe Web sites and the resources they contain, they explain the collection development policies that led to the selection of those resources.

In my opinion, these principles of electronic collection development are far more valuable than the (admittedly well-chosen and well-annotated) lists of

core Web collections in various broad subject areas. As good as these lists are, similar lists are available elsewhere. While the book's goal is to provide a single source for all aspects of electronic library collection development, including core collections, I wonder if the lists of resources could have been made available on the companion Web site so that the text could focus on the policy aspects. It might have made the book more affordable as well as being perhaps a more appropriate venue for ever-changing resources.

I also found the authors' definition of an e-library to be both overly broad and somewhat restrictive. I have already stated that I did not find the section on virtual reference to be relevant. Although document delivery is included in the definition, it is not discussed in the book. The resources contained in an e-library seem to be primarily Web sites, databases, and journals. There is almost no mention of electronic books or PDF documents and reports.

On the whole, however, I find half of the book—the half that helps develop the policies and criteria for collection development of electronic resources—an excellent resource that fills a real need in this area. As one cannot purchase half a book, I would recommend its purchase, even at its outrageous price.—*Betty Landesman (landesb@mail. nih.gov), National Institutes of Health Library, Bethesda, Md.*

Reference

1. Diane Kovacs, *Building Electronic Library Collections: The Essential Guide to Selection Criteria and Core Subject Collections* (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2000).

Cataloging the Web: Metadata, AACR, and MARC 21. Ed. Wayne Jones, Judith R. Ahronheim, and Josephine Crawford. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2002. 199p. $39.50 paper (ISBN 0-8108-4143-6).

Cataloging the Web is an excellent collection of short papers addressing many issues relating to the cataloging of Web-based resources. These papers were originally presented at the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services Preconference on Metadata for Web Resources in July 2000, and this volume is an excellent substitute for those who were unable to attend the preconference.

The editors, Wayne Jones, Judith Ahronheim, and Josephine Crawford, organized the book into six sections. The first section is an introductory article by Jennifer Younger, "Metadata and Libraries: What's It All About?" Younger provides an overview of the current state of metadata in libraries by addressing the role of metadata in resource discovery and access, catalogs and gateways, and a scholars' portal as well as the role of metadata librarians, and partnerships between libraries.

The second section of the book, "Cataloging the Web: AACR and MARC 21," addresses how libraries are attempting to provide bibliographic access to Web documents through the traditional means of cataloging: the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2) and MARC 21. Brian Schottlaender provides a thoughtful overview of some recent reviews of AACR2, and summarizes some of the issues that Tom Delsey identified in *Logical Structure of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* as needing to be addressed.[1] Matthew Beacom discusses the topic of how to catalog Web resources by presenting ten questions that should be considered, such as "What do I catalog?" and "One record or two?" Sheila Intner looks at alternative approaches to standard cataloging procedures to meet users' needs. She points out that users do not generally search for an entire electronic serial; rather, they are looking for information at the article level, and we need to take that into consideration when we are deciding how to provide access to electronic

resources. Jean Hirons recounts the changes to AACR2 with regard to serials cataloging, and reviews the definitions of such concepts as continuing and integrating resources. She follows that with a discussion of the changes' impact on library cataloging. Regina Reynolds discusses the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) as a link to metadata, and the ISSN's relationship with other standard numbers, such as the Uniform Resource Name (URN) and the Serial Item and Contribution Identifier (SICI). In the last article in this section, Rebecca Guenther discusses MARC21, Dublin Core, and the development of metadata crosswalks.

The third section of the book, "Cataloging the Web: Other Approaches, Other Standards," looks at how libraries are using less traditional methods to provide access to Web resources. Norm Medeiros discusses the benefits of the OCLC Cooperative Online Resource Catalog (CORC) implementation at New York University's Ehrman Medical Library, including better selection of Web resources, increased efficiency, and the development of higher levels of expertise among those participating. Other papers in this section address the use of Text Encoding Initiative (TEF) headers, eXtensible Markup Language (XML), and Encoded Archival Description (EAD) to provide bibliographic access to Web resources.

In the fourth section of the book, "Tools for Cataloging the Web," two products for providing access to Web resources are discussed: MARCit software, and the INFOMINE project. Laura Bayard describes how MARCit software is used to select a Web resource and create a basic cataloging record using the metadata already inherent in the resource (such as the title) and allow editing of that information in a template. Juan Carlos Rodriguez discusses the development of INFOMINE, an online Web finding tool for public domain scholarly