

Kochel, who outdid themselves this time with this wonderful resource. When adults find themselves sharing this book, with topics such as “Creepy-Crawly Creatures,” “Disasters,” and “Unsolved Mysteries,” and a section specifically on “All Things Gross,” that includes bodily functions and poop, you know you have a winner with young guys everywhere.

*Gotcha for Guys!* offers citations of more than 1,100 books that aim to the interest of middle school boys. Research reveals that boys in this age group are much more interested in nonfiction materials versus the fiction that dominates the shelves for this age group. *Gotcha for Guys!* lists nonfiction book talks that are presented in a beginning section of chapters, starting off with “New and Notables.” These are the hottest titles that are exciting and appealing for any young male reader. A second section in each of these chapters comprises brief annotations and talks for other books of interest. Finally, a third section offers lists of starred-review titles under the heading “Worth Reading” to consider for boys. The authors carefully selected each title listed, and this contributes to the strength of this resource. Also, placing the latest titles at the front of each chapter makes it a user-friendly reference tool for librarians and teachers.

Baxter, who is well known for her “Nonfiction Book-talker” column in *School Library Journal*, makes the point that nonfiction is the perfect genre for enticing reluctant readers, yet it is a genre that is often ignored by librarians and teachers when doing book talks for this age group. Who says nonfiction for boys isn’t exciting? It is evident that the authors had great fun compiling the lists for this book, and this is a must-have for all libraries that serve boys of this age.—*Nelson Dent, Information Services Librarian, Norman Public Library, Pioneer Library System, Oklahoma*

---

***Law Librarianship in the Twenty-First Century.*** Ed. by Roy Balleste, Sonia Luna-Lamas, and Lisa Smith-Butler. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2007. 229p. \$55 (ISBN 0-8108-5881-9).

The title of this edited collection implies an examination of the future of law libraries, and it fulfills this mission with eminently practical results. Name recognition of contributing authors Roy M. Mersky and Robert C. Berring Jr. virtually ensures that this book will receive due attention within the field, but the less-known authors, culled largely from the directorships of academic law libraries, deliver equally on the title’s promise. Of course, one cannot satisfactorily project the future without also examining the past, as *Law Librarianship in the Twenty-First Century* does in nearly equal measure. After Mersky’s provocative introduction, Berring sets to the task of neatly encapsulating the history of the profession into five stages, culminating in an era of “Current Questions.” He posits that law librarianship faces an identity crisis between the various charms of the Special Library Association, the American Association of Law Schools, and the field of librarianship as a whole, while arguing for the maintenance of cohesion for the good of the profession. From there, the table of contents reads like a recipe of ingredients for a law library: “Adminis-

tration,” “Public Services,” “Technical Services,” “Collection Development, Licensing, and Acquisitions,” and so on. Tracy L. Thompson’s chapter on library consortia is somewhat exceptional in that it covers territory that may not be familiar to all existing law libraries.

If there is a weakness to *Law Librarianship in the Twenty-First Century*, it is that its focus is so broad that many law librarians may find little new information in the chapter on their specialty. As a consequence, this title is likely to be most useful to individuals who are new to, or unfamiliar with, law librarianship, especially library students, librarians considering a change of career track, and researchers hoping to compare law library trends with those of other library types. Law librarians mired deeply in their own specialties also may find these generalized summations of their colleagues’ work insightful.—*Chris G. Hudson, Serials and Government Documents Librarian, MacMillan Law Library, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia*

---

***Libraries Beyond their Institutions: Partnerships That Work.*** Ed. by William Miller and Rita M. Pellen. New York: Haworth, 2006. 230p. \$39.95 (ISBN 0-7890-2909-6).

Libraries do not exist in a vacuum. *Libraries Beyond their Institutions* seeks to provide administrators and librarians with examples of how to move outside their own walls and comfort zones. This work illustrates success stories beyond the traditional partnerships in bibliographic utilities. As the editors outline in the introduction, “we see librarians realizing that their institutions are part of the total fabric of society, and need to be linked in a variety of ways to the world around them” (2).

This volume, which was simultaneously published by Haworth as *Resource Sharing & Information Networks* 18, no. 1/2 (2005/2006), provides examples of how public and academic libraries are developing partnerships involving database consortia, leadership training, international ILL agreements, civic activities, continuing education opportunities, and many other enterprises. These articles provide background information, project details, success stories, and lessons learned in such a way that others can benefit from their experiences.

As with any edited volume, some articles are better written than others. One challenge is that many contributors rely heavily on acronyms, making for slow and often confusing reading. In addition, the articles are not arranged in any logical order. It would have been helpful to have the general articles precede the more specialized ones. Julie Beth Todaro’s article “Community Collaborations at Work and in Practice Today: An A to Z Overview” is an excellent introduction to the concepts of partnership and collaboration, but it appears toward the end of this volume. Another general article buried in the middle is Elizabeth A. Curry’s “Play with the Slinky: Learning to Lead Collaboration,” which provides a training model to help library leaders develop and lead collaborative community projects.