“Custom Cookie Cutters”) are made accessible to all members of the library’s community.

The wide variety of programming and library types are perhaps the book’s strongest characteristic. In-depth descriptions are given for both Georgia Tech’s for-credit “Your Invention, Your Idea” university course and Carnegie Public Library’s innovative “Hip-Hop on L.O.C.K.” program, which pairs community members and local DJs for a lesson on organization and economics in a makerspace recording studio. Yet the text doesn’t stop there—issues related to fundraising, staffing, tools, and even advertising (especially social media marketing) are consistently raised in conjunction with the programming descriptions that each featured makerspace incorporates.

Bagley defines a makerspace as “a space that has been designed to allow users to create, build, and learn new projects and technologies,” and her survey of the nation’s makerspace ecosystem is enlightening, even though it may be lacking a certain amount of contextual information pertaining to the origin and evolution of the concept. Any library professional with a creative streak and a desire to empower their community stands to benefit from this book.—Matt Cook, Emerging Technologies Librarian, University of Oklahoma Libraries, Norman, Oklahoma


For librarians faced with reference questions that have them wishing for a data specialist on staff to provide guidance, The Reference Guide to Data Sources provides expert assistance. Written by a librarian for librarians, the guide contains clear and concise directions on how to start a data search. The book focuses on helping library professionals answer questions in the burgeoning field of data reference, but it could also be easily used by end users. The guide begins with basic background information on how to conduct a reference interview for a patron with a data need and an overview of data jargon, definitions, and terms. The author also lists major agencies that gather statistics at both the national and international levels, clarifying the reasons some data is disseminated and some is not. The second chapter lists general data sources, places to begin a search before heading to the more specific resources listed in the subject based sections. The subsequent chapters provide quick introductions to the kind of data collected in various topic areas and list annotated resources for each that are divided into major and minor sources. The librarian or end user can simply flip to the relevant chapter and see what is available in a subject area. Most of the recommended data sets in the book are freely available, online, quantitative, and oriented toward the social sciences. Both US and international data resources are included. This guide would be especially useful for a new librarian, an experienced professional new at answering data questions, or a librarian simply unfamiliar with certain subject-specific data sets. The last chapter covers what to do when an online data search has failed, illustrating ways to use article databases and Worldcat in data searches as well as how to access experts. Also included are tips on how to cite data and how to use the open source Survey Documentation and Analysis software. Overall, this guide serves as an accessible and well organized overview of online places to search for data. This book is highly recommended for all types of libraries.—Rachel Hamelers, Science Librarian, Muhlenberg College Library, Allentown, Pennsylvania


Articulating connections between child development and storytime practices, STEP into Storytime is a rich resource for both novice and experienced storytime presenters. StoryTime Effective Practice is an approach aimed at developing storytime programs that are beneficial and effective for mixed-age groups, keeping the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical development of children at the forefront. Discussing developmentally appropriate practice and how it is applied as a foundation for STEP, this manual takes readers through a three-part method that shows how easy it is to integrate best child development support practices into all storytimes.

Part I helps readers understand what StoryTime Effective Practice is, offers a framework for planning, and explains intentionality and scaffolding. Part II examines the connections between storytime practices and children’s progress in the four developmental domains. Part III offers techniques and examples to help apply all that the reader has learned. The chapters in this book are detailed and in-depth, yet succinct and easy to read.

STEP into Storytime offers more than thirty ready-to-go storytimes that include songs, extension activities, parenting tips, and other features. Storytime presenters can use the storytimes as they are, use them as a foundation for their own designs, or combine certain elements with their own programs. Examples include traditional and sequential mixed-age storytimes.

A valuable source for children’s librarians, teachers, and caregivers, veteran or amateur, STEP into Storytime is a refreshing, insightful manual. This is an excellent addition for a professional collection, to develop techniques, to reinvigorate current programs, or even for quick reference.—Jill Eisele, Early Literacy Librarian, Glen Ellyn Public Library, Wheaton, Illinois


It’s all about the user. This point is made clear in Aaron Schmidt and Amanda Etches’s new book, Useful, Usable, Desirable: Applying User Experience Design to Your Library. The conversational tone of this book adds to the growing body of
publications on the user experience. It serves as a step-by-step guide to developing a welcoming library based on a number of library “touchpoints,” or key components, that affect the user experience, such as the library website, signage, furniture, restrooms, policies, and collections. Although many of the recommendations (such as ensuring that furniture is intact and keeping restrooms clean) are common sense for any public service manager, the book stresses the importance of the local environment and the need to focus on the members of the local library community.

The title of the book refers to what the authors call the “trinity” of good user experience. The book is organized in a clear and easy-to-use format, allowing the reader to move from section to section as needed. Chapters are devoted to physical space, service points, policies and customer service, signage and wayfinding, and online presence. Additional chapters provide a general review of attitudinal and behavior research and the importance of organizational culture. The appendix offers a scoring sheet as a method for assessing library service. A rating scale may appeal to some librarians, but the list used on its own would be equally beneficial.

Schmidt and Etches are not newcomers to the user experience field. They have collaborated on projects, and both are actively engaged in work. Schmidt is the head of Influx Library User Experience, a design firm dedicated to integrating user experience design into libraries. Etches is the head of Discovery and Access at the University of Guelph Library and also a part of Influx.

This book is recommended for those new to the user experience concept and serves as a useful introduction to creating and maintaining a positive user experience. The parting words capture the objectives of the authors: “Every decision we make affects how people experience the library. Let’s make sure we’re creating improvements” (158).—Jane A. Carlin, Director, Collins Memorial Library, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington


Edited by two teen librarians, this book focuses on practices of teen services for young adult librarians in today’s public libraries, covering topics such as programming, networking, “defining our teens,” teen involvement, collection development, and marketing. Both current and future librarians will find that this volume offers helpful direction in running a successful teen services department as well as motivation to involve teens in libraries. The information presented here can be molded and incorporated within a teen services department in a public library or a school media center for middle school or high school students. In addition, the appendices provide sample materials, such as a teen services plan, teen volunteer plan, a programming and marketing plan, and further resources. Librarians can easily incorporate these sample materials into their own plans, taking into account their own teen users and their department needs. The book is especially strong in its many wonderful examples of program ideas, marketing tips, and ways to lure teens into the library. Although many of the ideas already may be used in other libraries, this gives guidance to those just starting out in a teen’s department.

Moreover, this book serves current librarians and librarians-to-be equally well. Students working toward the MLS degree will be able to use this information throughout their education and apply it in their first jobs. In addition, the information provided in this book is highly relevant for those who already work with teens and would like to revamp or reevaluate what they are already doing.—Dana M. Amarosa, Tween Librarian, Westhampton Free Library, Westhampton Beach, New York