Libraries' financial dilemma, these vendors tend to concentrate on such topics as the history of publishing, the changing e-books market, and electronic archiving. Several provide updates of their online services, informational talks that also serve as instructional sessions useful to those of us "nontechies" who needed (at least in 2001) explanations of concepts and terminology (DOI, SFX, etc.)

Other paper topics include the “article economy” (the purchase of individual articles rather than journal subscriptions), OpenURL compliance for effective linking (the navigation tools for linking from database citations to journal Web sites to full-text articles and/or the OPAC), FAST CAT processing of materials, restoration of Oviatt Library and its collections at California State University after an earthquake, citation studies (finding that books are still important), recruitment into the profession, and the “new age” consortia. Also of note is the “Charleston Panel on Usage Statistics 2001,” chaired by Denise M. Davis (National Commission on Libraries and Information Science). With the caveat that usage statistics themselves can be misleading, this paper includes valuable lists of Web sites related to issues of data collection and vendor–library statistics.

The overall message of the papers in this volume is one that encourages us to become comfortable with change. Technology, as it evolves, promises new and unknowable opportunities and possibilities, and current conflicts that cloud our vision (such as library–vendor divisions) will eventually be resolved. Librarianship today, with the ongoing revolution in the new digital information world order, is exciting; the whole world is changing in reaction and we have a front-row seat. But we must remember that technology is simply a tool that we need to harness for meeting the needs of libraries and their users. National meetings such as the Charleston Conference keep us up-to-date on professional issues needing to be addressed, and they stir up new ways of thinking about and analyzing what our users need, when they need it, where, and why. In terms of studying information-seeking behavior, we’ve not yet scratched the surface. As David Nicholas and Anthony Watkinson (City University, London) note in the subtitle of their paper “The Digital Information Player: We Have the Data But Not Yet the Understanding.”—Shelley Arlen, University of Florida.


In 2002, IFLA conducted two major campaigns to strengthen freedom of access to information. First, it launched the IFLA Internet Manifesto (http://www.infa.org/III/misc/im-e.htm), which stresses that freedom of access to information is a central responsibility of the library and information profession, regardless of its medium or of national boundaries. The second event was the Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom (http://www.ifla.org). The theme of this book echoes these two IFLA documents. The authors are from seventeen countries, including the United States; they discuss the historical background of librarianship, the role of professional library associations, the development of ethics codes, and the foundations and philosophies on which ethics codes are based in their respective countries.

To help readers understand the ethics codes of the library profession in a global context, the editor of this book compiled a list of potentially divisive issues as they concern librarians and library associations internationally: globalization, digital inclusiveness, privacy, authenticity, confidentiality, trust and censorship, copyright, intellectual property rights, gray literature, electronic filters, confidence in cyberspace, as well as the digital gap between the information rich and poor, the commercialization of information versus interactive online public services, and the consequences of the Gen-
eral Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS). Among the seventeen countries included in this volume, twelve have established ethics codes for the library profession: Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Lithuania, Russia, Sweden, Thailand, the U.K., and the U.S.A. Argentina, South Africa, and Uganda are without ethics codes for librarianship. Mexico and Norway are in the discussion phase of establishing codes for all library workers. Readers are informed about how these authors view the code of ethics for the library profession in their unique situations and, in addition, how these codes relate to each other.

In each chapter, the author discusses the ethics code of the library profession in terms of his or her own country’s situation. For example, the author of the Canada chapter noted an emphasis on library employees’ freedom of speech on professional and policy issues; in Canada, intellectual freedom is an important issue for library workers and not just the public they serve. The chapter on Costa Rica examines the historical background of evolving professional ethics that has served the librarianship movement in that country. The author’s perspective on how third-world countries could benefit from the global connection through the Internet is quite insightful: It is important to disseminate information at no cost in order to foster sustainable development in the third world. Furthermore, this author believes that information policies must integrate ethical considerations as the basis of universal access to free, truthful, and relevant information for all. The discussion of the code of ethics of the Japan Library Association focuses on ethics in relation to the professional status of librarians because the professionalization of librarianship is not firmly established in Japan. The two authors of the Russian chapter offer a different picture: Russian libraries were subject to the strongest pressures of the totalitarian state and were considered primary instruments for ideological influence. In the Soviet era, the development of professional ethics was impossible. When the USSR collapsed, the library associations began discussions concerning the Russian Librarians’ Professional Ethics Code, which was approved in 1999 at the Russian Library Association Conference. Today, courses on library ethics are taught in every library science program in Russia. In the chapter on the United States, the author reports that the ALA adopted a code of ethics as far back as 1939. The code has subsequently been revised several times; the latest revision was in 1995. The author identifies sixteen professional library organizations in the U.S. that have codes of ethics. Most of them were adopted in the 1990s. The author also lists nineteen national organizations that include “ethics-like” elements in their mission or purpose statement.

In the countries that lack ethics policies or codes for libraries and librarians, efforts have been made to develop such codes. The author of the South Africa chapter states that apartheid required the suppression of the views of the majority of the people. After the first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994, the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) was launched in 1997. The first draft of a code of ethics for library workers in South Africa is presently in circulation among LIASA officials. In Argentina, the author recognizes the absence of an ethics code but states that, instead, the rules of ethical behavior are understood by all officials and librarians. The author of the Mexico chapter discusses the long tradition of printed books and rich libraries in Mexico. The Colegio Nacional de Bibliotecarios (an association for librarians who hold an academic degree) approved a code for professional ethics in 1992. However, the code is still unfamiliar to the library workers outside the association. Furthermore, the ethics code has not been sufficiently valued and studied by the library science community in Mexico. The Mexican Library Association will have an important role to play in establishing the ethics codes of the library profession in that country.
Alex Byrne, chairman of IFLA’s committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE), wrote an introduction for this volume. This book can serve as a primer for anybody wishing to know more about library associations in general and about the development of codes of ethics in particular.—Sha Li Zhang, Wichita State University.


This is the third book in the Greenwood Library Management Collection series and consists of fifty-three short essays by information professionals. The contributors share their insights on what skills they think librarians of the twenty-first century must have to meet the growing demands of users and the resulting changes to library services and operations. This collection of essays will certainly be of interest to future librarians, but seasoned professionals also will find much that is thought provoking. These essays confirm that the changes and challenges many of us currently face are common to all academic libraries (only three of the essays are from public librarians).

There are several recurrent themes in these essays, including technology, library use patterns, communication, image, customer service, and, above all, change. The issues of change—what has changed, why it has changed, and how we deal with change—motivate nearly every essay. One contributor notes that change has become so prevalent that it permeates everything we do and that we should not expect a job description to remain stable for more than a couple of years. Though never articulated, the essays seem to fall into two broad categories: how the profession has changed, and what skills future librarians will need in order to work within this changing environment.

Several contributors claim that technology is undeniably the major cause of change. This change means that we must be able to provide assistance to users in a variety of software and hardware applications. The ability to distinguish between new technology and necessary technology is, perhaps, even more important. If it were just about technology, librarians would have been replaced with machines long ago.

In her foreword, Leigh Estabrook categorizes the characteristics that will be needed by future librarians into three broad areas: knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Other contributors emphasize that librarians of the twenty-first century need to have a broad general education, good communication skills, flexibility and open-mindedness, and the capacity to multitask. A sense of humor also was mentioned in several essays. Surprisingly few of the contributors emphasized strong subject specialties; instead, most recommended that future librarians be good communicators who have a broad overall education. On the other hand, subject specialization was emphasized within the context of the research university in which librarians work as fellow researchers with their teaching faculty colleagues.

Research on library user behavior indicates that patrons access information differently today than in the past. Because of this, the traditional dichotomy between public and technical services is blurring. Several contributors suggested that the distinction will disappear entirely because everyone who works within the library will focus equally on providing access to information. Most of the essays, especially those by Angela Horne and Lorena O’English, emphasize strong customer service skills; I encourage both of them to expand their essays in a future publication.

So what kind of person will most likely possess the new skills? All of the contributors addressed this question, but a couple of them were especially creative in envisioning the personal qualities needed.