year, and symbols representing specific librarian attributes. For example, the letter “B” is used to highlight films that contain a librarian with a bun and the letter “E” is used to denote films with librarians wearing eyeglasses. The authors also supply a list of 181 films that they did not consider and provide brief explanations why these titles were excluded. This interesting book is a good choice for film and popular culture collections.—Caroline Geck, Kean University


This collection of thoughtful, albeit at times seemingly random, essays contains something of significance for every academic librarian. The mix is eclectic and not every essay will be equally useful for every reader. Many of the essays were originally published in the electronic Journal of Southern Academic and Special Librarianship (JSASL), later rechristened the Electronic Journal of Academic and Special Librarianship (E-JASL), and they certainly reflect the increasing influence of digitization upon libraries and librarianship. The editors are all faculty members of the Library Science and Information School of Southeastern Louisiana University.

New Challenges is divided into five sections: “Scholarly Communication,” “Instruction and Learning,” “Legal Issues,” “Metadata and Digitization,” and “Library Studies.” The essays in each chapter are only loosely related, but they do successfully address various aspects of the larger topic. For instance, the chapter titled “Legal Issues” contains only Rory McGreal’s “Stealing the Goose: Copyright and Learning” and Eleanor Lomax and Linda Lou Wiler’s “The Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance and Academic Libraries in the Southeastern United States,” two essays on very different topics that are tangentially connected only under the general rubric, “Legal Issues.” While both essays do in fact deal with legal issues, the essay on copyright is much more theoretical than the specific, more utilitarian piece focusing on ADA compliance in a particular region of the country. Despite this imbalance, there is something to be gleaned from each essay.

While the “Legal Issues” and “Metadata and Digitization” sections are sparsely populated at two essays each, the substance of the book resides in the heftier sections, “Scholarly Communication” and “Instruction and Learning.” Here the editors have selected essays dealing with critical issues and debates such as the future of electronic journals and the various models for providing instruction in the area of information literacy. Academic librarians will be intrigued by the possibilities offered in these helpful essays on trends in bibliographic instruction, illustrated with examples from various institutions. Many of the essays make the crucial point that practice must indeed vary, predicated upon the mandate, mission, and organizational structures of individual libraries and academic institutions. Ideally, of course, academic librarians should have some authority to make or at least influence decisions that affect their user populations, but these pieces also acknowledge that this ideal is rarely realized.

Despite the book’s fragmented design, that virtually dictates the lack of a central argument, in the aggregate this collection presents a broad overview of the current issues confronting academic librarians. New Challenges Facing Academic Librarianship provides a welcome and needed sampling of the current scholarship in the field. It is a text to be savored, rather than devoured wholesale.—Lynne Maxwell, Villanova University