University. She has applied this expertise to provide ArcGIS workshops for architecture students, create online tutorials to supplement student learning of the software, and through ongoing support service within a graduate-level architecture studies course on digital tools and methods. Results are promising, and now other programs want to enrich their research with GIS.

In the next chapter, the first in part 3 (“Research as a Conversation”), Dominic Tate presented how Edinburgh University Library provided support for universitywide implementation of open access (OA) guidelines contained within the United Kingdom’s Research Excellence Framework (REF) of assessing quantity and quality of research at universities. The library adopted a decentralized approach, with staff visiting the 22 separate schools of the university, informing faculty and researchers about green OA and assisting them in uploading items into the institutional repository. This approach enabled each school to tailor an implementation plan for OA that met their specific subject and research discipline needs. Tate’s case study emphasizes the importance of communications planning in a decentralized implementation, as well as the academic cultural change necessary to implement an REF OA policy in a complex academic organization.

A group of librarians and technologists from UiT, The Arctic University of Norway, created a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) entitled iKomp to bring modern teaching approaches to their instruction in information literacy. In chapter 8, Marian Løkse, Helene N. Andreassen, Torstein Låg, and Mark Stenersen describe the planning and development process, first choosing the OpenEdX platform for course development. Their course design combined linear and nonlinear models of instruction to facilitate both start-to-finish instructional paths and student-initiated learning of specific skills. Even with a highly knowledgeable team of information literacy instructors and technologists, implementing the MOOC took more time than expected. However, the group views iKomp as a positive contribution to their information literacy efforts and a natural step in the progression toward more modern pedagogical approaches and enhanced library services.

In the volume’s final chapter, Hannah Tarver and Mark Phillips of the University of North Texas talk about the development of the UNT Name App, a web-based application created to allow UNT Digital Library to improve metadata consistency for name authorities across two of the digital library’s collections—UNT Theses and Dissertations and UNT Scholarly Works. Better consistency in this metadata would support the best practices of linked open data and facilitate other applications in using the data. This Django-based application was written using Python. While not planning a systemwide attempt at authority control, this project has provided UNT Digital Library with a name-authority tool that can be used for special collections or other digital projects pursued by the institution.

A well-structured and timely collection of research support services projects, this book will interest a wide range of librarians and staff considering such services in academic libraries.—Scott Curtis, University of Missouri–Kansas City


“Many librarians consider self-published or indie titles to be nothing more than the current manifestation of vanity press publications—those titles that authors paid to have printed only to sit in their basements or garages since bookstores wouldn’t carry them and libraries turned them down even as gifts,” writes Robert P. Holley, the editor
of Self-Publishing and Collection Development: Opportunities and Challenges for Libraries. Holley’s statement is unequivocally spot-on and rings especially true for large numbers of academic librarians. However, Holley has put together a great book that fully addresses every aspect of the “present and potential impact of self-publishing on libraries.” And this book could not be timelier, as recent Nielsen data reveals that self-publishing now accounts for 18 percent of the book market and is expected to grow exponentially in the coming years.

Commencing with a perceptive foreword by Mitchell Davis, of BiblioLabs fame, and a similarly insightful introduction by Holley, this book contains 14 diverse chapters focused on every conceivable aspect of self-publishing and the industry that has sprung up to provide support to independent authors. Many of the chapter authors note how public libraries have long taken the lead when it comes to the integration of self-published materials into their collections. Of course, this only makes sense when one considers that most self-published titles are fiction, which is precisely what the majority of pleasure readers yearn for. From the educational perspective, just as many chapter authors note that academic libraries have been much slower to embrace the self-publishing revolution. These libraries have been slower to accept self-publishing mainly due to the number of negatives associated with many of the materials. Those negatives may include materials that are poorly written, items with abysmal cover art, cataloging issues that have to be dealt with, titles that lack reviews, and titles that are all too often not carried by traditional library vendors. Despite these issues, “self-published books can meet the entertainment and information needs of users, the reason why libraries exist.”

The first chapter, a case study of self-publishing in the Los Gatos (CA) Library, provides insight into their collaboration with e-book publisher Smashwords. The author details their early acceptance of self-published materials and how there are burdens on both the library and those wanting to self-publish. Los Gatos took self-publishing one step further by developing mobile labs to work with community groups. The second chapter details the challenges and opportunities of self-publishing as experienced by the Kent District Library in Michigan. Their library embraces all types of self-published materials, including books, music CDs, and film DVDs. The Kent District Library also helps local authors by conducting writers conferences, providing book signings and readings, and helping with self-promotion.

The third chapter delves into the topic of large academic libraries and their reluctance to add self-published materials to their collections. The author rightly points out that many academics still view self-published titles as vanity press. While those views have been changing since 2008, mainly due to the proliferation of e-books, there is still a large gap between public and academic library collections in terms of self-published materials. The fourth chapter also addresses the issue of academics, as the author “presents reasons why academic libraries should consider collecting self-published books to meet the immediate and especially long-term needs of their users.” Chapter 5 provides background on the author’s four previous involvements with publishing and his future strategies based upon those experiences.

The authors of both the sixth and the seventh chapters are vendors, and they mutually provide insight into how book vendors have adjusted to the world of self-publishing. The eighth chapter mentions the usual issues for academic libraries, such as “budgetary restraints, perceived lack of review mechanisms, and a continued impression that such works are inferior to traditionally published books.” However, the author goes on to provide an excellent overview of the different types of review options that are available to librarians, as well as insightful information for each of the review sources. Chapter 9 investigates the “importance of bibliographic control for self-publishing, the
current status of bibliographic control, and the possible future steps.” This chapter is particularly notable for its outstanding discussion of how the critical components of discovery and distribution/handling can be better organized with bibliographic control.

The purpose of chapter 10 is to look at the platforms and models of support for self-publishing and to explore how libraries are contributing through digital initiatives. The concept of 1,000 True Fans, Patreon support, and the use of Kickstarter are all succinctly assessed in this chapter. Chapter 11 is appropriately titled “An Indie Author in a Library World,” as the author is a traditionally published independent author and a librarian. Her experience provides perfect insight into the lack of reviews, which can be one of the biggest roadblocks facing indie authors. The author of chapter 12 initially tried the traditional publishing route but turned to self-publishing; she provides in-depth evaluations of both Smashwords and Amazon. Her firsthand accounts of what did and did not work are a great lesson for those who are new to self-publishing. The founder of Alacrity House Publishing uses chapter 13 to describe how a small writing group she formed eventually led to a book publishing business with a mission of promoting the talent of people within her community. The author describes their close relationship with libraries, printers, and service providers, the challenges they face, and their plans for the future. The concluding chapter is a bibliographic essay designed to address the question of volume, which the author describes as the real story of self-publishing. When referring to volume, the author states “that while e-books make less money, they move the most individual units.”

“I was happy to see the text depart from a strict academic context to create a mesh of perspectives that let all range of libraries learn from the experiences of others. Publics, academics, and community college libraries are all represented here,” writes Mitchell Davis in his foreword. As a reviewer of Self-Publishing and Collection Development: Opportunities and Challenges for Libraries, I could not agree more. In fact, this reviewer counted himself among the many academic doubters until I reviewed this informative collection of articles providing firsthand accounts of self-publishing and collection development. Not only does this book provide a plethora of perspectives for those wanting to learn more about self-publishing and indie authors, it is especially insightful when it comes to the continuously evolving role libraries of all types are playing in this rapidly developing field.—Phill Johnson, Auburn University at Montgomery