the existence of the tools. This is an area where transformation is occurring and has opportunities for greater transformation.

Lest one would think this topic might not be included, Nisa Bakkalbasi writes about assessment, with added attention to marketing. She reviews the history and the current state of evaluation, presenting quantitative and qualitative methods that are employed, emphasizing that assessment is cyclical. The research bases of determining needs and then assessing the results is examined. Marketing is also related to a culture of assessment, a culture that integrates change into a formative means of improvement.

Ronald Jantz is charged with what is perhaps the most challenging essay—looking into the future. He admits to the overburdened state of libraries and librarians within the institutions as they exist today. Jantz recaps, in some ways, the topics that precede his, but he examines such items as research and marketing with an eye to the future. It is difficult to summarize Jantz’s essay, because he tackles so many issues so well. Suffice it to say that his essay culminates the volume in an excellent fashion.

There are two additional aspects of the book—very positive aspects—that need to be mentioned. Each essay includes either extensive notes or bibliographies; these are extremely useful for practicing professionals and for teachers and students. The other aspect is the inclusion in each essay of activity questions and assignments. It is this aspect that lends the book most readily to instructional use, giving potential students prompts according to which they can ponder seriously the meaning and implications of the topics presented. In short, Gilman has done a real service in putting together a uniformly excellent volume. First, all academic libraries should acquire the book for professional development purposes. Second, academic programs should give serious consideration to using this book in instruction. As collections of essays go, this book is exceptional.—John M. Budd, University of Missouri


Academic librarians in teaching roles face a recurring challenge to make connections with students that result in student learning of the desired content. Defining “engagement” in terms of these connections, authors Mark Aaron Polger and Scott Sheidlower seek to provide a practical guide to a number of approaches to engaging students in both semester-long and “one-shot” instructional opportunities. With the recognition that our students come to college from a diversity of backgrounds and with a range of learning styles, the authors hope to inspire the reader to seek out and use different techniques to improve student engagement. Unfortunately, the brevity of both their presentation’s original analysis, or synthesis of the cited research, limits the effectiveness of this book in achieving this goal.

A very short chapter looks at generational differences in learning styles. The narrative does not examine any of the differences between generations other than through easy generalities that most readers will have a level of familiarity with before reading the book. Few readers will gain insights here.

Another short chapter is devoted to “Examining Diverse Learning Groups,” yet the only diverse learning groups discussed are the disabled, veterans, LGBTQIA, students of color, and English language learners. Only half a page was devoted to discussing the English language learners, and the students of color section only covers in depth “hip-hop pedagogy,” an approach that does not take into account that students of color may be Asian, American Indian, Latinx, or any other category. The section on gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and intersex students is thorough and helpful to the reader in understanding how to better relate to these students. One
would hope that other learning groups would receive the same treatment. Arguably, the reader would expect a chapter that paints a picture of diverse learning groups to have more diversely vivid detail and insights, given the title of the book.

A core chapter of the book, chapter 4, presents the results of a questionnaire of academic librarians on engagement and teaching strategies. This questionnaire appears as an appendix in the book. The survey responses come from an impressive number of academic librarians (900), and the authors extended their study by conducting 20 in-depth interviews. The work Polger and Sheidlower have done in this chapter would make an ample research article for a peer-reviewed journal. The authors could provide additional insight and make the interview portion of the chapter more coherent for the reader by synthesizing the in-depth interview discussions, grouping commonly expressed ideas and insights together, rather than presenting each librarian’s interview transcript summary in sequence.

The remaining chapters of the book follow a pattern in providing brief summaries of selected resources that provided useful ideas for the authors in their teaching roles. Findings from these articles are presented but not evaluated or analyzed in more than a cursory fashion. The lack of originality in suggested techniques and approaches in these chapters, as well as the absence of depth in discussion of the many techniques presented, will frustrate readers. Polger and Sheidlower are at their best when describing personal anecdotes from their teaching experiences. Spending more time and space connecting their experiences with diverse learners, their insights upon reflecting on those experiences, and their findings and interpretation of additional ideas and techniques in the teaching research literature would make the book more engaging.—Scott Curtis, University of Missouri-Kansas City


Information literacy is evolving. To address this evolution of library instruction, the authors of User-Centered Design for First Year Library Instruction Programs argue that the student and his or her needs must take center stage when designing library instruction programs. A rapidly changing digital and information landscape requires librarians to adjust how they teach and what content is included in those instruction sessions. The new era of “fake news” requires librarians to move away from focusing on students’ current needs and instead step back to consider the future where critical thinking is the ultimate tool in a student’s toolkit to address unknown issues and information requirements. The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) developed The Framework for Information Literacy in Higher Education in part as a response to this new and seemingly altered landscape where much of the underlying focus is on the students’ personal relationship with information literacy. Ippoliti and Gammons argue that user-centered design can help librarians to incorporate this and other elements of Framework by always keeping users at the center of their thoughts when planning library instruction, a method that should firmly ground an instruction program.

Ippoliti and Gammons present an engaging examination of using user-centered design to plan library instruction programs. This book is targeted toward librarians whose primary or main job task is to coordinate or manage a library instruction program. However, the book is easily accessible and highly engaging, and other librarians currently providing more “one-shots” than programmatic instruction will find this a useful tool to begin transforming their work into a cohesive and sequential information literacy program. The authors begin their writing with a thorough introduction that clearly outlines the intent of their work and, importantly, note that the sections

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