of RFPs for very specialized products like bindery services or disaster recovery. The reader can choose the chapter that most closely matches the situation they are facing; these are the standalone chapters alluded to in the book’s introduction. There are hints for negotiating with vendors, descriptions of “where we went wrong,” and detailed suggestions for items to include or consider. Many chapters include boxouts and sidebars to provide quick access to crucial elements or synopses of projects. Several include detailed timelines of the steps of the RFP process.

Not to be skipped are the four final chapters of the book, constituting Part III, titled “Vendor Perspectives and Ethics.” Chapter 14 presents information collected from interviews with seven vendor representatives from a variety of service providers. Based on that information, the authors present a concise view of best practices to ensure that the library and the vendor are speaking the same language.

The following chapter discusses the library-vendor relationship, setting that relationship in the context of services meeting needs. Stephen Bosch describes how vendors are an important part of the functioning of a library, “Library-vendor relationships exist in order to advance their mutual self-interests and these relationships grow from a foundation of mutually beneficial goals” (242). The remainder of the chapter highlights the importance of clear, honest communication in maintaining an effective relationship with vendors. Bosch also presents ideas for the effective use of email and other means of contact.

In chapter 16, Andrew Pace describes the RFP process from the vendor point of view. He highlights the time pressure that vendors face, as well as the cost they incur responding to RFPs. The more vague or complicated an RFP is, the more time a vendor needs to spend addressing it, and they may (and do) decide that responding simply isn’t worth the cost. Pace also provides some important information about pricing and requesting quotes. Being aware of the vendor’s criteria for responding to an RFP is invaluable in creating a request that will not only get read, but will actually produce an intended result. Chapter 17, “Ethics for the RFP Process,” sums up several of the themes that recur throughout all sections of the book: transparency, honesty, and fairness. The authors give a concise yet detailed history of ethics in the field of librarianship and describe how those ideals apply to the purchasing process.

Each chapter in the book concludes with a list of references or suggestions for further reading, a nod to the intended “each chapter standing alone” format. There is a glossary at the end of the book, which seems redundant. However, this glossary highlights where some common phrases or words have a slightly different meaning or nuance. A bibliography of all the contributors highlights the authors’ qualifications for each chapter. Finally, the book includes a useful index.

This book is an excellent tool for both understanding and creating RFPs for libraries. It can be used as both an introductory text for librarians unfamiliar with RFPs and a handbook while engaged in the RFP process.—Michael C. McGuire, Colby College


Outreach and engagement is a key topic in academic libraries that is receiving an increased focus within the profession. While it may be difficult to decide which materials one should turn to first when delving into this subject, Successful Campus Outreach for Academic Libraries is an
excellent collection of essays on the current scholarship and practice of academic library outreach. The ideas presented in its pages are not only inspiring; they can be easily adapted to fit a variety of academic settings. Nearly all chapters of this book detail collaborative outreach initiatives featuring partnerships with entities both on and off campus. There is a variety of topics covered, including planning and programming, as well as less obvious topics such as technology. Nearly all chapters incorporate essential details of implementation and assessment of the described programs. The practical information shared in each chapter will appeal to anyone charged with outreach efforts.

The chapters of the book are organized by four intriguing themes: Strategic Vision and Planning, Developing and Implementing Successful Programs, Community Outreach, and Broadening Outreach Audiences. After a concise introduction that gives context to each of the themes, the book begins with a fascinating chapter written by Rosan Mitola of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas University Libraries. This chapter discusses the UNLV Libraries’ “audience-based outreach and assessment plan” (3). Mitola includes aspects of event planning activities and steps taken to establish partnerships with other campus departments outside of the library. The highlight of this chapter is the appendix, which provides a sample event proposal. This proposal contains frequently overlooked aspects of library event planning, including event purpose and outcomes, cost, and unique methods of program assessment.

The second chapter, “Reconceptualizing Outreach” by Rochelle Smith, discusses ways in which librarians can interact with faculty and students outside the traditional information literacy classroom setting. Smith describes the benefits of librarians sharing their subject knowledge in forums such as interdisciplinary colloquia series and subject-based guest lectures. “Teaching to Learn and Learning to Teach” is the third chapter, written by Courtney Lundrigan. Lundrigan encourages librarians to interact with students outside the library instruction classroom by reaching out to campus student groups and organizations. This chapter also looks at peer tutoring and mentoring theories, applying these theories to examples of how libraries can create peer-tutoring programs in the library. Lundrigan suggests simple steps that librarians can take to foster a relationship with student-led organizations.

The second section of this book focuses on the development and implementation of successful library programs. “Building Boot Camp Success” by Mandy L. Havert describes the collaboration between the campus libraries and the writing center at the University of Notre Dame. These departments work together to provide dissertation “boot camps” for graduate students. The chapter evolves into an informative discussion of the logistics, funding resources, and assessment of the boot camp program. The next chapter, “Money Smarts,” discusses the “Money Smart Week” programming at the University of Denver. The university libraries collaborated with nontraditional outreach partners such as the Office of Financial Aid and the Bursar’s Office to provide student programming that teaches topics related to financial literacy. Next, “Library Outreach and Campus Communication Using a Digital Signage Platform” by Toong Tjiek Liauw (Aditya Nugraha) focuses on using the technology of campuswide digital signs for outreach at Petra Christian University in Surabaya, Indonesia. The in-depth assessment of patron interaction with digital signs will be of interest to any library that also has access to this technology.
The third section of this book is a topic that is often overlooked in academic library outreach discussions: community outreach. “Academic Libraries and STEM Outreach Programs” by Naomi Bishop focuses on the University of Denver and Northern Arizona University libraries’ STEM-themed outreach initiatives to several off-campus groups, including elementary and high school students, as well as students at a local tribal college. Outreach activities detailed in the chapter include maker labs, workshops dedicated to 3D printing, and information literacy sessions dedicated to copyright and patents.

A case study of the Long Island University C.W. Post campus B. Davis Schwartz Memorial Library’s collaborative exhibits and events is described in “Academic Library Exhibits and Programs” by Manju Prasad-Rao. This library has enjoyed the unique opportunity to host several national traveling exhibits. The chapter offers valuable advice on the application process for hosting these exhibits. Next, “Regis University and Arrupe Jesuit High School” by Paul Mascareñas and Janet Lee details the collaboration among a university library, a local public library, and a high school to host a “research day” for high school students. This day allows high school students to undergo the “college library experience.” An interesting facet of this chapter notes the feedback on this program from current Regis students who attended the sessions as high school students.

The final section of the book focuses on “Broadening Library Outreach Audiences.” In this section, the chapter “Books Are Not Enough” by Sabrina Wong emphasizes the lack of professional literature dedicated to outreach in polytechnic schools. Wong begins to fill that gap by providing details of the outreach efforts at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. These engagement initiatives were inspired by survey data and conversations with the campus community. Of particular note is the section in this chapter on creating an engagement plan for the library, as well as assessment of the plan.

The next chapter, “Student Library Advisory Boards” by Rebecca Barham et al., describes student library advisory boards at the University of North Texas. A compelling aspect of these advisory boards is that they are separated by undergraduate and graduate students. The focus of the chapter is the formation of the graduate student library advisory board, a unique concept that could easily be implemented in many other institutions. Finally, “Supporting Graduate Education” by Deborah Lee describes Mississippi State University Libraries library workshops for graduate students. To create these workshops, the library collaborated with other campus offices, including the MSU Writing Center.

Each chapter in this book includes an extensive reference list that provides those who wish to learn more about a topic many options for further research. The robust index as well as the biographies of chapter authors completes this satisfying read. The introduction to this book states that one area of the book that could be explored further is assessment in outreach. This reviewer found that several chapters do address assessment, so it is off to a good start to fill the gap in the literature on this topic. Overall, this book is highly recommended for academic outreach librarians or any other staff member who is charged with outreach responsibilities for their library.—Laura Wilson, College of the Holy Cross