Book review
By Sha Li Zhang


With rapid changes in information technologies, how do library collection development policies reflect these changes and keep pace with a variety of content delivery platforms to meet the needs of diverse users? In the forward of this book, Liz Chapman, Director of Library Services at London School of Economics and Political Science, states that fundamental responsibilities in collection development have not changed. This notion offers enlightenment to discussions in *Collection Development in the Digital Age*.

This book consists of four parts, with fifteen contributing papers. All are written by single authors, except for one paper. The goals of this book according to the editors are to investigate recent developments in collection development and to explore the new roles that librarians play in the changing environment. The contributing papers in this book have reached the goals.

In Part One of the book two authors discuss the concept and practice of collection development. In reviewing evolving process from collection development to collection management (i.e., policy setting, selection, acquisitions, budgets, cooperative collection development, preservation, and weeding), the authors recognize the impact of information technologies (i.e., computer-based, network-based, and digital technologies at different times) on collection development. The authors also reflect on the relevancy of the concept of collection development in the digital world. In Part Two five authors focus on the trends in the development of e-resources which cover broad arrays of digital contents: databases, e-journals, e-books, and digitized or born-digital collections.

Among these new formats, e-journals have rapidly replaced their print counterparts in almost all disciplines. Many libraries find their ways of quickly increasing the number of e-journals through “Big Deal” subscriptions which have proved very popular for university libraries. Stewardship and curation of intellectual contents of e-resources have become increasingly important to library and cultural institutions. Therefore, libraries should integrate their stewardship work with their collection development policies. Four authors contribute to the chapters on the trends in library supply in Part Three of the book. The authors recognize the changing role of librarians “from collector of everything in the world of scholarship to a collector and publisher of product of one’s own institution.” With ever changing landscape in scholarly communication, the open access movement continues its impact on scholarly information dissemination through Gray, Green, Gold, and hybrid routes.

One author predicts that in the next five years we should see great clarity as more experiments are undertaken on open access publishing. In reviewing open access routes through Gold and Green models, some authors question the sustainability and if libraries should consider using their subscription funds to help pay author fees.
In Part Four five authors offer effective use of library collections through collection development policies in digital age, user support, information literacy, and engage user community. One author provides an in-depth description of collection development policies with selected examples for each component of the written policy. In helping develop users’ information literacy, the authors suggest bringing users from the open Web to library collections and services, and then present library materials in an instructional environment. Another author uses a case study of a multi-campus partnership project to illustrate how librarians can become active players and productive contributors in engaging user communities and to promote library collections.

The book provides a good balance between intellectual exploration of a conceptual framework of collection development in a digital era and a practical guide for librarians, LIS students and new professional. Readers will find this book useful and enlightening. Though the majority of the authors are from Europe, readers will find that the concepts, principles, and practical examples in this book are universally understood and useful for many libraries when they re-think collection development in the digital age.

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