

Likewise, an argument that reflects the importance of the book as a whole comes from a chapter on configuring technology training spaces and other resources, written by four librarians from Horry Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) in South Carolina. Administrators commonly need to quickly spend the remaining technology budget at the end of a fiscal year, and this can lead to pursuing trends that are outlined in the academic library literature. The authors point out that most of this literature comes from the perspective of larger, better funded institutions that have budgets that expand beyond serving the core needs of their students. Considering the lack of literature from the small and rural library perspective, the HGTC librarians advocate for performing local assessment activities to determine the actual needs and interests of students, rather than relying on the perspective of institutions whose situations do not resemble their own. How this assessment can be performed is a central theme of several of the chapters throughout the book.

The general purpose of *The Small and Rural Academic Library: Leveraging Resources and Overcoming Limitations* goes beyond just increasing the literature that is specific to the operation of these institutions, instead providing broader guidance on determining the specific needs of unique libraries. The narratives from each of the standard chapters may focus on the authors' own institutions and actions, but each instance follows the author's thought processes in developing plans, making these specific examples more broadly adaptable. The fact that these chapters are consistently well organized, make apt use of the existing literature, and do not fall into the easy trap of being only relevant to the authors' own libraries demonstrates the value of Kendrick and Tritt's excellent editorial oversight.

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The Identity of the Contemporary Public Library: Principles and Methods of Analysis, Evaluation, and Interpretation. Edited by Margarita Pérez Pulido and Maurizio Vivarelli. Milan: Ledizioni Ledi, 2016. Pp. 215. €16.00 (paper). ISBN 978-8867054688.

The *Identity of the Contemporary Public Library: Principles and Methods of Analysis, Evaluation, Interpretation* contains the proceedings of a conference held in Turin, Italy, in December 2014 in which invited Italian and Spanish scholars took part. The focus of the conference, and of this volume of proceedings, was the principles and methods used to assess and interpret the nature and identity of the public library. The authors use a comparative methodology and explore the historical, cultural, social, and organizational changes that are occurring in public libraries, especially those located in Italy and Spain.

After the introduction, Paolo Traniello considers the public library in contemporary society and raises some important questions that must be addressed by any public library. Among

these questions are the following: Does public library space provide a continuing positive value proposition for the community, or will the continuing digital revolution cannibalize the library? What combination of collections, services, and space is best for a specific community? Not surprisingly, Traniello does not provide answers, but he does raise interesting issues that should be considered.

Margarita Pérez Pulido then explores values, social responsibility, and sustainability using an international standard as a framework for addressing ethical conflicts and good practices in public libraries. The ISO 26000 standard provides guidelines for how an organization can operate in a socially responsible manner. Pulido suggests that the combination of management and ethical rules plus applicable legal laws will lead to sustainable management of the library.

In the next chapter, Maurizio Vivarelli investigates possible theories for a holistic perspective of interpretation of the contemporary public library. The author encourages the reader to start from the phenomena and then to use a variety of new tools (e.g., graph analysis, visualization software, and big data) to connect the data. In particular, he recommends practitioners consider the significant volume of data associated with social media. Vivarelli concludes with the observation that both qualitative and quantitative methodologies must be used to better communicate the value of the library.

Beginning the second section, author Aurora González Teruel first presents the theoretical and methodological debates in research on information behavior. She then considers three qualitative methods—content analysis, social network analysis, and discourse analysis—to demonstrate that although based on similar information collection procedures, each method will yield different results. However, these varied results are based on analysis rather than a priori judgments.

Chiara Faggiolani then demonstrates the power of using mixed methods, including quantitative analysis of big data. She suggests that libraries should not be satisfied with “comfortable data,” but instead should leverage the “untapped informational geyser” (129) as a means for better managing libraries. Faggiolani explores the 7Vs model of big data: volume, variety, velocity, veracity, visualization, variability, and value. The author concludes with the admonition that it is important to explore data from three perspectives: qualitative research, quantitative research, and the analysis of big data.

In part 3, Giovanni Solimine considers the role of libraries between fragmentation and the complexity of knowledge by suggesting that Italian libraries have evolved through three stages: (1) library centered on document management; (2) library focused on service management; and (3) library concentrated on users, people, and citizens—social librarianship. Building on the IFLA Trend Report, Solimine concludes that librarians should be working to assist their communities in building knowledge.¹

1. Dan Mount, *IFLA Trend Report 2016 Update* (The Hague: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, 2017), <https://trends.ifla.org/update-2016>.

Ernest Abadal then considers the challenges of public libraries in the digital environment. He suggests that libraries need to provide better tools so that customers can both search and browse a variety of digital content—such as e-books, digitized content, and discovery tools—and discover library digital content on various social media sites. Abadal concludes with the observation that libraries need to continue to play “an essential role in the dissemination of cultural content” (137) by cooperating with other libraries, embracing innovation, creating and encouraging community, changing the perceptions of the public library, and increasing the visibility of the profession.

Giovanni Di Domenico argues that public libraries should be regarded as places with different purposes and potential—places for sharing knowledge where “intelligence, opportunities, relationships and well-being take shape” (139). Di Domenico suggests that both qualitative and quantitative methods can be combined to better explore the physical and conceptual space of the library.

Maria Pagano reports the early results of a survey of public library users in Tuscany that focused on the various aspects of quality using a Likert scale approach. The results suggest that architectural space was not perceived to be a key factor but that staff skills were valued.

In the final chapter, Ilaria Giglio and Maria Maiorano consider the utility of the new International Standard 11620 as a framework for reporting and demonstrating the value of the library.

Given the academic writing style of all the authors, this volume will be of interest and is recommended to library school faculty members interested in public libraries and to public librarians interested in the evaluation of library services.

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Knowledge Unbound: Selected Writings on Open Access, 2002–2011. By Peter Suber. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2016. Pp. xvi + 436. \$30.00 (paper). ISBN 978-0262528498.

In the preface to *Knowledge Unbound: Selected Writings on Open Access, 2002–2011*, author Peter Suber describes the rise of the internet as being “like an asteroid crash, fundamentally changing the environment, challenging dinosaurs to adapt, and challenging all of us to figure out whether we were dinosaurs” (xiii). Suber perceived the profound impact that these technological advances would have on scholarly communication and became a pioneering advocate for the open access (OA) movement. According to his biography at the time of publication, Suber held positions as the director of Harvard’s Office for Scholarly Communication, director of the Harvard Open Access Project, faculty fellow at the Berkman Center, senior researcher at the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), and research