Book review

By Judy Jeng


This is a timely and practical book on e-book collection building and management. The book consists of three parts. Part I has three chapters offer essential background. Part II has real “how-to-do-it” chapters. Part III provides six practical examples that offer real-world scenarios and helpful tips for successful implementation in a variety of settings.

Chapter 1 describes the transition to e-books, discusses advantages and disadvantages of e-books, presents variations of e-book readers, and discusses e-books in today’s libraries. Chapter 2 provides an overview of e-books from the perspective of the publisher and outlines the macro issues relevant to the industry as it continues to transition from print to digital. Chapter 3 discusses e-book publishing models and trends and their impact on libraries, including patron-driven acquisition e-book model, digital rights management, and e-textbooks. Chapter 4 addresses the use of e-books in public libraries, including starting an e-book collection, staffing and budgeting needs, and best practices. Chapter 5 provides balanced coverage on e-book selection process for public libraries and college and university libraries. There are also discussions on purchase models, e-book formats, platforms, display devices and budgetary and licensing concerns. Chapter 6 addresses the licensing issues that e-books have created. Chapter 7 discusses cost implications for current e-book acquisition options. Chapter 8 discusses cataloging issues of e-books. Chapter 9 discusses assessment and evaluation of e-book collections.

The book includes an excellent e-book timeline on Figure 1.1.

This is an excellent book with good content, easy-to-read writing style and good organization. It is a practical book and I enjoy reading it. I highly recommend it for librarians in all types of libraries.

Judy Jeng, Ph. D., is a member of the IFLA Acquisitions and Collection Development Section Committee and Adjunct Faculty at San Jose State University.