
This book is a useful informational and practical tool for any practicing librarian or new librarian interested in the subject of collection management either in the academic arena the public library, school and specialized library field. The book is published by one of the best known publishing houses in the field of library and information science in the United States: Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc.. The author Ph.D. Gregory is a well known professional in the field. She is a professor at the School of Information Science at the University of South Florida in Tampa U.S.A. She was director of the School from 1999-2007.

The volume contains twelve chapters that run from the impact of the new technologies down to the future of collection development and management. The twelve chapters are: 1) The impact of new technologies on collection development and management; 2) assessing user needs and marketing the collection to those users; 3) collection development policies; 4) selection sources and processes; 5) acquisitions; 6) budgeting and fiscal management; 7) assessment and evaluation of the collection, including de-selection (weeding); 8) cooperative collection development and resource sharing; 9) legal issues in collection development; 10) professional ethics and intellectual freedom; 11) preservation; and 12) the future of collection development and management.

It is to be noted that along the chapters the author provides an overview for each one, different points of view, solutions to problems that come across as well as examples plus best practices. It also includes local, national and international efforts made by several library organizations to set recommendations that can be applied in different environments and types of libraries.
The book shows a clear cut organization within each chapter which includes theory, technical / specialized vocabulary, activities discussion questions, (and in some cases the author’s conclusions), references and selected readings. It also contains sample forms and a series of figures / charts.

As a reference book on the topic of collection development and management, the reader can locate the issues and themes in the useful alphabetical index and find references to sources in the bibliography of selected readings. This edition includes a CD with two major sections:

a) Set of 21 collection development and management policies in PDF format of academic, public, school and specialized libraries.

b) An Excel spreadsheet of major publishers, distributors, and wholesalers of books, periodicals and audiovisual materials.

In conclusion the book published by Neal-Schuman Publisher’s Inc., provides an overview of the status of the field for the 21st century and it can be a very useful informational tool especially for developing countries. In other ones it will reaffirm the well known procedures they are undertaking.

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