Jump-Start Your Career as a Digital Librarian: A LITA Guide. Edited by Jane Monson. Chicago, IL: Neal-Schuman (an imprint of the American Library Association), 2013. Print. 235 pp. \$47.00 USD. **ISBN-13: 978-1-55570-877-1 (paper); 978-1-55570-881-8 (PDF); 978-1-55570-882-5 (ePub); 978-1-55570-883-2 (Kindle).**

The world of digital libraries is often overwhelming, and developing the skills required for a successful career in this field can be a moving target. Topics that didn't exist in libraries until relatively recently (content management systems, web development, data curation) as well as more traditional librarian duties that intersect with developing areas (mobile reference, e-resource management) are all issues that may show up on the digital librarian's radar. New trends and technologies emerge with startling regularity, and, for those new to digital librarianship, determining where to focus your development can feel bewildering.

When planning or starting a career as a digital librarian, developing an in-depth and comprehensive level of knowledge on every aspect of digital libraries that one may stumble across in the course of the job is not usually practical or possible. What is realistic is to attain a familiarity with the concepts and issues in the field and an understanding of how the various components work together. **Jump-Start Your Career as a Digital Librarian: A LITA Guide** aims to provide an overview of the essential areas of digital librarianship through focused discussion of the different concepts and issues, real world examples and recommendations for further development.

The book is organized into two sections, with chapters authored by library professionals recognized in their fields. Part I "Planning Your Career" provides an introduction to the role of the digital librarian and a discussion of how to define that role at a time when many areas of traditional library work increasingly encompass a digital element. The four remaining chapters address education and career planning for library school students, as well as for librarians considering – or facing – a career shift to a digital librarian position, and recommend resources and directions for current awareness and professional development for those new to the field. Transferable skills are discussed in detail in a chapter on making a career shift and complemented by a discussion of techniques and practicalities in landing a job in digital librarianship.

Part II "Practicing Your Career" builds on Part I by moving into a discussion of the ideas and issues that the authors consider essential to succeeding at a career in digital librarianship. Over seven chapters, core technology competencies such as web architecture, imaging standards and content management systems are discussed, as are metadata and digital preservation. Digital project management and collaboration are also given dedicated chapters, and a comprehensive section on scholarly communications touches on institutional repositories, open access and changing publishing models.

Readers should not expect to emerge from this book with a comprehensive knowledge of all the myriad tasks that could conceivably fall within the digital librarian's area of responsibility. Nor should they: as the authors recognize, the skill set of the digital librarian is broad and cannot be addressed in-depth in one publication. Instead, the topics presented are largely given high-level treatment and are intended to provide the groundwork for readers to understand the key issues and concepts surrounding digital librarianship.

Chapters include a list of well-vetted resources for further reading, which often contain valuable recommendations outside of established current awareness directions. The list of topics and concepts discussed is complete, although the book would benefit from the inclusion of a discussion on e-resources and licensing. E-books and/or e-journals have become ubiquitous in virtually every library environment, and the concepts, issues and models for the management of these resources are necessary and complex enough to warrant a more in-depth discussion.

On several occasions the importance of self-directed development is emphasized, as is the need for new digital librarians to take the initiative for DIY knowledge advancement in the digital library field. While this advice is primarily presented to library school students in an effort to bolster MLS programs that may be lacking a digital focus, the authors also make several concrete recommendations for creating opportunities and identify several approaches that current digital librarians could also use to familiarize themselves with emerging areas, such as open data repositories.

While this work does contain theoretical discussion where necessary and appropriate, its strength is in its practical applications. As recognized and established professionals in their fields, the authors are able to bring a wealth of personal experience and anecdotes that provide a compelling look at their topics. Case studies are often provided and give valuable insight into real-world projects and experiences using examples designed to engage the reader, such as iTunes metadata and the UNLV "Menus – the Art of Dining" digital collection. In particular, the chapter on project management benefits from case studies on two quite different digital projects: a photograph digitization project and a web page audit and site migration.

Jump-Start Your Career as a Digital Librarian is a well-constructed and comprehensive introductory guide for librarians new to the digital library environment and those considering a career in the field. Aside from discussion of the U.S. Copyright Act, the issues in the book are universal to Canadian readers. Finally, while the chapters on metadata and key technology concepts may require a closer reading for those with no familiarity with these areas, previous experience in the area of digital libraries is not necessary as the book provides a clear overview of the issues, concepts and trends in digital librarianship.

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