Dekker, J., & Kandiuk, M. (Eds.). (2014). ***In Solidarity: Academic Librarian Labour Activism and Union Activity in Canada***. Sacramento, CA: Library Juice Press.

Upon entering the profession, many new academic librarians may find that certain core aspects of the work were not meaningfully highlighted, or perhaps were even overlooked, during their MLIS. One such conspicuous absence, in this reviewer's experience, was the discussion of the role of unions in the profession, and the effect these organizations have on the day-to-day experience of working librarians. With the large majority of professional librarians, particularly in academic positions, working in unionized environments and under the stipulations of a collective bargaining agreement, the importance of this topic should not be understated.

In Solidarity is a great collection of articles and case studies examining the activist past and present of Canada's academic librarians. Divided into four parts, the text traces the historical aspects of labour organization amongst academic librarians, including several case histories from particular institutions, through to the current issues in labour activism and unionization. Additional case studies reflect on the practical implications of these challenges.

By dividing the text into general and specific discussions of the subject, the editors have made room for alternate explorations, and readers may find more value in one part or another based on their needs or interests. Parts One and Three, with their treatment of broader aspects, will be the most useful in facilitating informed discussions of these issues at the reader's home institution. Parts Two and Four delve more deeply into the finer details of specific cases. These sections will be essential reading for anyone working at the institutions under discussion and will serve as good points of comparison for those at other institutions.

The first part provides an historical backdrop for labour organizing amongst Canadian academic librarians. Leona Jacobs' chapter on the history of academic status for librarians serves as the centrepiece for the whole book. This thoroughly researched account of librarians' struggles for organization and recognition weaves together a fractured set of association and committee reports to build a cohesive snapshot of academic status in Canadian academic libraries. This chapter alone would serve as a useful introduction to librarian labour activism in Canada.

The second section, entitled *Case Histories*, gives three good examples of labour activism at different institutions. These historical accounts give an interesting glimpse into the conflicts—at times quite personal—that arose from librarians' attempts to organize. While certain favourable conditions did exist at key moments in this history, the recognition of librarians as members of the academic community was by no means uncontested. The work of these brave librarians built the workplace environment that we see today, with its strengths and its flaws.

The third section moves into the present day, exploring some of the current implications of unionization and collective bargaining at colleges and universities in Canada. That conditions are far from uniform across Canadian academic institutions is clear. Academic librarians are faced with very different working conditions depending on their institutions' collective agreements. Even where consistent language exists, terms such as "Professional Activities," "Research," and "Service" are not consistently defined. While the majority enjoy academic status, their actual status relative to teaching faculty varies widely from one part of the country to another, and faculty perceptions are equally inconsistent. And where faculty association membership for librarians places them within the same bargaining unit, the level of participation of and consultation with librarians relative to collective bargaining is, again, greatly dependent on the specific circumstances at their institution.

The final section presents four case studies of these issues in practice today. If the book has a single shortcoming, it's the uneven geographic representation of librarians in these cases. Of the seven case histories and case studies presented in Parts Two and Four, all but one looks at universities and colleges in Ontario, the lone exception being a chapter on Louisiana State University in the United States. Of course, a willing author may not be available at every institution, and this is certainly not a criticism of the editors who have compiled a collection of very interesting cases. Perhaps this can be taken as a call to librarians in other parts of the country to look deeper into the history and current circumstances of labour activism where they work.

Overall, *In Solidarity* makes a strong argument for maintaining and strengthening the academic status of librarians based on a shared community of interest with academic faculty. The text unveils the complicated diversity of institutional and contractual approaches to librarian workload responsibilities and outlines many of the practical challenges faced by activist librarians presently and in the past. Readers will come away feeling better prepared to engage in thoughtful discussions with fellow faculty, administrators, and their associations about the academic role of librarians at their institution.

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