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Holden, J. (2017). **Acquisitions: Core Concepts and Practice** (2nd ed.). Chicago, IL: Neal-Schuman. ISBN 978-0-8389-1460-1.

To begin with, physically, the copy of *Acquisitions: Core Concepts and Practice* received proved to be well produced with a solid binding. This reviewer also found it to be of an appropriate size (23 cm x 15 cm) for handling and reading. It was quite easy to manipulate in one hand. The font and typeset made it quite a comfortable read without bringing about fatigue to the eyes. But the 130 pages of length did seem limited for such an extensive topic to cover, especially with all of the recent technological and practical changes to this subfield of library science.

The author begins with several definitions, including collection, collection development, and acquisition. This approach is appropriate to initiate readers new to the practice and concept of library acquisitions. The author further defines ethics and how it applies directly to library acquisitions. Ethics are codified within the American Library Association (ALA) code of ethics, first adopted in 1939. The author includes the ALA code of ethics at the end of the book, which was a good touch. The author also provides a list of current acquisitions practices.

There is a total of five chapters, each briefly touching on particular aspects of library acquisitions. There is a short chapter on aspects of working with vendors and useful hints on how to select a vendor based on specific criteria. The author stresses the importance of viewing vendors as partners. That, in itself, felt odd—until this reviewer realized that the author was, at the time of the book's publication, an Account Services Manager at EBSCO Information Services.

There is another concise chapter on acquisition orders with a differentiation between book orders, standing orders, and subscriptions. There are some elaborations on approval plans, standing orders, and perpetual access. A paragraph is devoted to blanket plans with an emphasis on strategic access.

The book then discusses the importance of feedback as a source of information, all of which this reviewer agreed with. The author dedicates a considerable number of pages to this topic, recognizing that patron feedback is critical to the proper functioning of any

acquisition process. Mechanisms of feedback can include usage data, communications via email and social media, and verbal communications from patrons. Present is a succinct section on resource usage statistics, including the history and use of the COUNTER project, but only briefly touching on SUSHI. However, this information is rather outdated as COUNTER compliancy has been a fact of library collection management for over a decade.

The author also stresses the periodical refreshing of staff skills and technology. Technology changes regularly, sometimes drastically, and required skills need to be updated just as regularly. It is important to measure the value of a process and all its aspects regularly.

The author touches on the concept of the Big Deals as well as consortia. Since consortia and Big Deals are a major part of any library collection management process, especially academic libraries, it would have been nice to see more on this topic. Further brief discussions are present on Open Access content as a “growing movement to make critical research, especially government or other publicly funded research, available free of charge,” and the nature of Open Access. As with consortia and the ever-problematic Big Deals, this reviewer would have liked to see more on Open Access, as libraries have been heavily involved in this “growing movement.” The author finally briefly mentions the impact of link resolvers and OpenURL on access to a collection’s content. Again, more should be present on this topic.

It should be noted that each chapter ends with a list of references, indicative of a certain amount of research behind each discussion.

Overall, this book provides a very basic though well written introduction to acquisitions processes and theories. Although some of its content may prove to be dated by the time a reader goes through it, especially students of library and information science, and employees of any library acquisitions department, it does provide a good introduction to issues involving library acquisitions.

It is, however, difficult to recommend this title as a textbook for students of library science since it is far too cursory and basic in the information it conveys. It may also prove to be rather expensive for its small size. Furthermore, it is not recommended for acquisitions or collections librarians as well as library technicians. It simply does not provide any up-to-date information or anything on current acquisition trends.

It may be more appropriate for one who has no knowledge whatsoever of library acquisitions. It may be a useful introductory tool for newly hired library personnel not participating in acquisitions-related functions.

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