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Fourie, D. K., & Loe, N. E. (2016). **Libraries in the information age: An introduction and career exploration** (3rd ed.). Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited. ISBN: 9781610698641.

This is a dandy little book. Now in its third edition, it is geared to potential or current students of what we used to call “library science,” current staff in need of continuing education, and graduates still looking for work.

It is well and clearly written by two experienced librarians. Denise Fourie, with over 25 years of experience, is currently the lead instructor for the library/information technology distance education program at Cuesta Community College in San Luis Obispo, California; Nancy Loe is a librarian emerita of California Polytechnic State University where she managed special collections and archives for 30 years. Currently, Loe is a bit of a genealogy buff who manages sassyjanegenealogy.com. Over their careers, both authors have worked in academic and public libraries. In addition, as a graduate student Loe specialized in Archives Management, which probably explains why whole sections of the book are devoted to archives and archivists.

As might be expected, the book starts off with a chapter describing twenty-first-century librarianship, emphasizing the web’s impact not only on collections, but on processing and service. A description of the types of jobs available in libraries emphasizes the range of work open to librarians. The next chapter, “A Brief History of Libraries,” is appropriately short since the focus of the book is on the present rather than the past.

Chapters on standard library operations, including collection development, processing, circulation, and reference service, follow. A note from the preface is worth highlighting here:

Major additions to this third edition include updated information on current technologies in use across the field; discussion of the re-purposing of library spaces to include features such as learning commons, makerspaces, collaborative learning areas, and art displays; the growth of open access and commercial resources, as well as robust digital collections and archives; the need to engage library communities in participatory learning cultures via

outreach, common reads programs, social media and patron-driven acquisitions.
(p. xi)

This third edition also includes a chapter intended to provide “an updated look at traditional and emerging ethical issues facing library workers” (p. xi) and a further chapter offering “dynamic tools for the job seeker,” (p. xi) reflections no doubt of a challenging employment market.

The book provides its intended audiences with a nice overview of issues and challenges in the profession, with one exception. It does not include a chapter on library administration, a topic that, while less relevant to those seeking work in a large public or university library, would be useful for many librarians starting their careers in school or small special libraries.

All chapters include a set of endnotes and a bibliography of relevant resources, including those found on the web. Given the book’s purpose, most chapters include a set of study questions. The four appendices are as follows: A: “Declaration for the Right to Libraries” (which was approved by the American Library Association [ALA] Council in 2013); B: “Library Bill of Rights” (which was originally adopted by the ALA Council in 1948 and subsequently updated); C: “Code of Ethics of the American Library Association” (which was originally adopted in 1939 and subsequently updated); and finally D: “The Freedom to Read Statement” (which was originally adopted by the ALA Council in 1953 and subsequently updated).

This book is written by Americans for Americans, and some of the material will not interest Canadian readers. The book’s two references to Canada are brief, the first having to do with the University of Windsor library supplying an interlibrary loan title to someone in California, and the second quoting librarian Kay Cahill of the Vancouver Public Library who implemented a virtual library branch in that city. The book helpfully tells readers that Vancouver is in Canada.

While this book will be interesting for staff training purposes or to students pursuing a library career, it may be less so to readers of the *Partnership Journal*. As a textbook it contains information with which we are already familiar.

One hopes.

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