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Book Review: Next-Gen Library Redesign

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NEXT-GEN LIBRARY REDESIGN. Lascarides, Michael. *Chicago: ALA TechSource, 2012, xiii + 129 pp., \$59.95, ISBN 978-1-55570-787-3.*

Next-Gen Library Redesign is #16 in ALA's THE TECH SET®, a series of short guides that provide practical information on current technologies that are impacting today's library. The book's editor describes it as a "one-stop reference manual identifying what it takes to produce a forward-thinking web presence for your library." The author, Michael Lascarides, introduces the reader to emerging technologies and describes the necessary steps to execute them. He also offers up considerations each institution should make before and during the implementation process, as well as ways to assess success.

The number of web-based technologies available to libraries can be overwhelming, particularly to those who are less than tech savvy. Where to begin when you realize that your web presence is a little behind the times can be a daunting process. Lascarides takes a very gentle approach and reminds the reader that the main mission of libraries has not changed, and new technologies should not be taken on if they do not align with the overall goals of the institution. He seeks to show how new applications can enhance library services and patron experiences. His brief review of the variety of new technologies available to libraries, most with little or no cost, will help the reader decide whether adopting them will be of value to their institution.

Lascarides' introductory chapter describes digital and web technology changes over the last decade, and how these changes have affected the way library patrons interact with resources. His next chapter examines the software available to create wikis, blogs, LibGuides, etc. Chapter 3 offers some guidance on how to prioritize technology projects, and how to identify which ones will be the best investment. Chapter 4 considers the importance of getting feedback not only from patrons and front line employees, but also taking into consideration the advice of technical and legal experts. The next chapter gives examples of projects aimed to inspire librarians with ways to apply similar projects in their library. Chapter 6 emphasizes the importance of marketing new library technologies. Chapter 7 highlights best practices for creating communities, particularly for projects that require crowdsourcing. Chapter 8 gives some advice on how to quantitatively assess the success of newly implemented technologies. And the final chapter outlines some technological trends that will be impacting libraries in the near future.

Lascarides has written a book on technology that has surprisingly little techy jargon in it, making it accessible to any reader, regardless of their level of comfort with technology. That said, the book is a fairly basic overview of recent technological advances and will be of most relevance to those who are just starting to think about implementing new technologies. Those who are more advanced will find few things that they were not already aware of, but the author does do a good job of pointing out additional sources for more in depth discussion of specific technologies.

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