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# Review of Digital Library Development: the View from Kanazawa

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DIGITAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT: THE VIEW FROM KANAZAWA. Edited by Deanna B. Marcum and Gerald George. *Westport, Connecticut*: *Libraries Unlimited, 2006,  ISBN 1-59158-244-X.*

When I first received this book to review, I wondered, "what or where is Kanazawa?" But, with Deanna Marcum as one of the two editors (I do not know Gerald George), I figured that it must be a worthwhile read and I was right.

So first, what and where is Kanazawa and why is the view from there?  The Kanazawa Institute of Technology (KIT), Japan, has sponsored an International Roundtable on Library and Information Science for more than a decade and since 2001, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) has cosponsored it.  Initially, the roundtable focused on specifications and standards for digital libraries, resulting in the first volume of papers, *Development of Digital Libraries: An American Perspective.*  The current volume features selected papers presented from 1999 to 2003, and takes a broader view of the influence of digital technology on higher education and the role of the library.

*Digital Library Development* contains 16 chapters written by leading thinkers and experimenters in American higher education and librarianship.  These 16 chapters are divided into four major thematic sections: Envisioning the Future, Facing Major Challenges, Creating Projects and Programs, and Developing Digital Libraries.  Envisioning the Future begins with a historical perspective, discusses the lack of sustainability of scholarly print publications, suggests ways to enhance teaching and learning with technology, and ends with a discussion of the evolution of digital document delivery.  According to Stanley Chodorow, all of these issues are driven by the fact that digital technology "permits scholars to acquire information independently of the library, challenging the traditional role of the librarians in collection development"(p. 13) and, I might add, in most of our other roles as well!

Winston Tabb starts part two, Facing Major Challenges, with a look at the organizational challenges libraries face and the capacity that libraries will need to realize the full potential offered by digital libraries. He believes that the four major organizational barriers are vision, people, funding, and partnerships. He concludes that with, "the right people well trained and motivated, adequate funds, and effective partnerships" (p. 79) we can achieve a bright future for libraries. Part two continues with a discussion of new roles for the research library as a digital publisher, the challenges of copyright in the digital environment, and the future of reading in the digital age.

Authors Kevin Guthrie, Karin Wittenborg, Sarah E. Thomas, and Betty G. Bengtson discuss some specific digital projects and adaptations in part three. These topics range from JSTOR to digital initiatives at the University of Virginia, to adaptations at the University of Washington Libraries.

My favorite section was the last, Developing Digitial Libraries. Author James Neal writes that "the academic library faces radical reenvisioning" and "will become a center for research and development in the application of technology, an aggregator and publisher rather than just a consumer…a campus hub for working with faculty on the integration of technology and electronic resources into teaching and research, a national center for lifelong learning opportunities for information professionals, and a provider of information services to broader academic, research, and business communities" (p. 205).

David M. Levy offers four views of the future library (actually three views and one hybrid view) while Nicholas C. Burckel discusses how the physical space in the library has been and will be transformed by digital technology. Abby Smith sorts out how all of these changes, challenges, and opportunities will affect collection building. She concludes that fewer libraries

will see preservation of older materials as central to their mission, and more will consider themselves as primarily service organizations providing access to information sources.

All of the articles in this edited work are of excellent quality and very readable. Although the papers where originally presented between 1999 and 2003, it seemed to me that most of them must have been updated prior to publication of this work, based upon a quick review of the references attached to most of the articles.

This is one of those volumes that administrators in higher education would benefit from reading, and certainly library directors. At the very least I would encourage library directors to pick out a chapter or two to share with their provosts and with the library staff.

Highly Recommended.

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