

standardized to allow for cross-referencing and searching between biographies, gazetteers, and encyclopedias (to name a few).

Unfortunately, the weakest chapters may be Joseph Brannin's and Fred Heath's discussions of major renovations and redistribution of space at libraries at the Ohio State University and the University of Texas. They certainly provide interesting overviews of their projects and the rationales behind them, but both utterly fail to explicitly address how these spatial changes were driven or shaped by the demands of digital scholarship or the coexistence of digital and print media in the library. More problematically, Heath's contribution opens the book, but is clearly a republished talk, with no attribution of the venue, date, or purpose of the talk. It does not appear to be altered to fit the theme of this book, and sets the stage (inaccurately) for an anthology of repurposed conference talks of unknown origin. Brannin's chapter alludes to considerations in the renovation process for digital needs in both space and use, but fails to tell us how those considerations made an impact on the blueprints.

While select chapters in this book contribute to the conversation about the future of print and digital coexistence in libraries, it does not add enough not said elsewhere to recommend its addition to professional collections.

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CARIBBEAN LIBRARIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CHANGES, CHALLENGES, AND CHOICES. Peltier-Davis, Cheryl and Renwick, Shamin. *Medford, NJ: Information Today, 2007, xxv + 387pp., \$49.50, ISBN 978-1-57387-301-7.*

The Caribbean, defined in the book as "all the lands washed by the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico" (xvii), is not usually a place where one looks or thinks to find innovative and dedicated librarians. After reading this book, you will see why the Caribbean is a place where librarians are not sitting around on the beach all day. They

are facing tough issues, which include a lack of money, training, resources, and in some cases respect; but as you read these fascinating essays, you will see how they overcome a multitude of changes, challenges and choices to become better librarians and to do their best for their patrons.

This book started with the idea to "tap the burgeoning and established writing talents of library and information professionals within the Caribbean region to produce a work that describes their concerns, efforts, and experiences in addressing the myriad of issues affecting libraries in the region" (xv). It contains twenty-five articles, written by more than forty professionals who come from St. Maarten, the Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Surinam, St. Croix, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, and the United States.

The book is organized into eight different areas, covering the following: historical perspectives, management of the 21st century library, innovative services, integration and impact of information technology on library services, library cooperation and resource sharing, education and training of library users, distance education, and Caribbean librarians. Rounding out the book is a map of the Caribbean, information about the editors, reviewers, and contributors, and an index.

The best part of the book deals with items and subjects we have not seen before, like the development of rural library service in Trinidad and Tobago, libraries in Surinam, or the historical developments of libraries in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. But the book also delves into services for the blind and print-disabled in Trinidad and Tobago, the small academic library budgets of Jamaica, and technical services issues in developing countries, with an emphasis on Guyana. We also read about libraries in the Caribbean partnering with libraries in the United States and Canada in distance education and in the preservation and access to special collections. The editors, Cheryl Peltier-Davis and Shamin Renwick, write that their ultimate goal was "to produce a work that informs, educates, and stimulates discussion among librarians and other information specialists about future strategic directions for libraries in the Caribbean region and the rest of the world" (xvi). By reading just a few of these chapters, the reader can easily see that they have accomplished their goal.

While the group of women and men that created these wonderful essays may be surrounded by the blue waters that define their geographic region, most readers will find that librarians, libraries, and library

patrons, as well as many of the issues they face, are truly universal. Because of the wide range of topics and authors (including librarians working in academic, public, national, special and school libraries, as well as an archivist, university lecturer, and a information consultant), this book has something for everyone. This book is highly recommended.

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