

particular class, but I would have liked a more substantial discussion of matching student knowledge with the content being delivered.

Librarian instructors and library and information studies graduate students interested in instruction and information literacy would benefit from reading this work. For students of information literacy, this book is an excellent companion to Grassian and Kaplowitz's *Information Literacy Instruction: Theory and Practice*. Gavin's work expands on the practical advice for conducting instruction that is also offered in Grassian and Kaplowitz. In addition, instructors of composition and freshmen level courses would benefit from the techniques and approaches in this work, especially in the early chapters on topic and thesis statement development. Gavin's book would be an excellent addition to most academic libraries, especially those with active library instruction and information literacy programs.

Lynda M. Kellam
Data Services & Government Information Librarian
Jackson Library, UNCG
P.O. Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170

WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE? CAREER OPTIONS FOR LIBRARIANS AND INFO PROS. Gordon, Rachel Singer. *Medford, NJ: Information Today, 2008, xvi + 272 pp., \$35.00, ISBN 978-1-57387-333-8.*

For those that love being a librarian or information professional but are looking for more opportunities beyond the traditional academic and public library world, this book is for you. *What's the Alternative?* is the book that will help you expand your employment horizons by offering a variety of suggestions for whatever stage you are at in your library career.

Author Rachel Singer Gordon (whose other well-known books include *The NextGen Librarian's Survival Guide* and *The Accidental Library Manager* and who with Sarah Johnson compiles the *Beyond the Job* blog at <http://www.beyondthejob.org>) always seems to have her finger on the pulse of what is new for librarians in career development. Her latest book is another great example. In the Introduction, Gordon asks readers: "What can you do with a library degree

or library experience?" and then answers, "Anything that uses both your skills and knowledgebase (including both your info pro skills and your additional abilities), and feeds your soul... be sure to look at these options as suggestions for potential directions, rather than as a list of limited possibilities" (xiv). In this book Gordon gives suggestions for those persons looking for full-time positions, but she also gives suggestions for people that are looking for part time and freelance jobs, as well as suggestions for those looking for alternative careers in a library setting.

The book is organized into 11 chapters, each of which is arranged around a theme: Making the Leap; Organizations Serving Libraries and Librarians; Organizations Similar to Libraries; Striking Out on Your Own; Building a Business; Information Work; Working in Very Different Roles; Working in IT Outside of Libraries; Nontraditional Roles, Traditional Institutions; Back into the Fold; and Where to from Here. Each chapter offers different career choices and ideas, includes real-life stories and quotes from librarians working in a variety of non-traditional jobs, discusses the different kinds of resources available, provides names and Web addresses of organizations or related places where you can go for further information, and suggests transferable skills and experiences which would be helpful to have in that area. There are also four appendixes: Finding Nontraditional Positions; Alternative Careers Survey; Web Sites; and Resources. Appendix C, which lists all the Web sites mentioned in the book, can also be found at the book's companion Web site at <http://www.lisjobs.com/altcareers>. This site also has PDFs of the book's table of contents, foreword, and introduction, as well as a link to an article by Gordon on nontraditional careers. Chapter endnotes and an index round out the volume.

Toward the end of the book, Gordon writes, "Sometimes we fall into our alternative careers, and then realize that they are actually a better match for our skills and personalities than librarianship ever was" (171). This book gives readers the knowledge that there are many types of wonderful and different career choices out there for them to fall into. Highly recommended, especially for those working on their MLIS degrees.

Melissa Aho
Evening & Circulation Supervisor
University of Minnesota
Bio-Medical Library
505 Essex St SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455