

As of August 2011, only 17 public library systems in five states (including California) decided on privatization, and six others, we learn, had contracts but did not venture to the dark side and returned to public management.

Chapter 2, "How Privatization Works: RFPs, Contracts, and Data Analysis," is just that: the basics of how privatization works. There are no national standards, but there are some generally accepted principles that libraries and their communities can follow. "A Closer Look At Privatization: Five Case Studies" is the topic of Chapter 3. The five libraries examined in this chapter include two libraries, in Kansas and Tennessee, that are under private management; one library that was under private management but eventually went back to public management (in California); and two that thought about private management but eventually rejected it (in Massachusetts and Texas).

Chapter 4 discusses "Key Issues for Libraries Facing Privatization," looking at what privatization will mean for your library, your staff, and your community. The "Appendix: ALA Checklists" is a word-for-word section reproduced from the aforementioned task force report. A bibliography and index round out the book.

Privatizing Libraries is a good general book to read if your library is heading down the privatization highway. Is the book biased? Yes, but that is okay. Is privatization a walk toward the dark side or a smart fiscal move? Each public library and its community must decide that for themselves. Only time will tell if this new idea in library management is here to stay.

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DISASTER RESPONSE AND PLANNING FOR LIBRARIES. 3rd ed. Kahn, Miriam B. *Chicago, IL: ALA Editions, 2012, xvii + 158 pp., \$60.00, ISBN 978-0-8389-1151-8.*

Just when you thought your library was safe and sound, disaster strikes! Disaster can take many forms other than the traditional fire, flood, and famine. As Miriam Kahn points out in the beginning of her book:

Disasters come in all shapes and sizes, from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma in 2004–05 and Hurricane Irene in 2011 to tsunamis in Asia in 2006 and 2011; from the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile in 2010 and on the East Coast of North America in the summer of 2011 to the collapse of the archives in Cologne in 2009. In the past ten years, rivers flooded,

dams broke, roofs collapsed, fires erupted—disasters too numerous to mention here. (p. xi)

The focus of this book is to “help cultural institutions respond to and recover from disasters, to plan and prepare for disruption of services and dislocation from their normal routines” (p. xi). Why plan for disasters? Planning for disasters accomplishes two things: to “increase the chances for you and your library to survive a disaster and decrease the impact afterward” (p. xiii). Kahn starts out with an introduction on why you should and need to write a disaster response plan, and why it is important to do it before disaster strikes. Section one is on disaster response. This covers notification, assessment, working with the media, and dealing with contractors, computers, and the emotional issues that come with disasters.

Section two, “Recovering Collections and Resorting Operations,” discusses when to resume services, how to revise your disaster plan, public relations, and dealing with the next disaster—including physical and psychological issues. In Section three, “Prevention,” Kahn talks about the building survey (inside and out), fire and safety hazards, air quality and sick buildings, backing up computer data, vulnerable collections, and construction and renovation projects.

Section four, “Planning,” covers all elements of the planning stage, from creating a disaster response team to roles; responsibilities; prioritizing; planning for small, large, and major disasters; insurance, phone and Internet access; communication; companies; and training. Section five, “Response and Recovery Procedures,” gives you the basics for what to do in-house, handling and drying methods, and how to deal with mold, ozone, insects and pests.

Appendix A provides checklists and forms. This is really the star of the book, as it provides a basic building block for creating your own disaster response plan. Use it and modify it to fit your institution’s needs. Finally, Appendix B, “Associations, Organizations, and Companies,” gives librarians a great starting place to find sources offering response assistance with books, archives, documents, artifacts, film, phonograph records, magnetic tapes, hot and cold sites, and suppliers. The volume continues with a bibliography of books, articles and online resources to help you continue on your journey into disaster planning.

A fantastic book for that coming disaster, *Disaster Response and Planning for Libraries* is designed to help readers create their own disaster response plan. In addition to librarians, those working in archives, historical societies, and museums will also find this a valuable tool.

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