

College/CUNY) and one of the editors (Andrew P. Jackson, executive director of the Langston Hughes Community Library & Cultural Center-Queens Library, and Adjunct Professor, York College/CUNY), I approached writing this book review from as neutral a viewpoint as possible. Nonetheless, I was impressed by the insights into librarianship that I gained from this book and therefore recommend it to every professional collection in the United States, even if they do not include the first two volumes. The book helped me to more fully appreciate such initiatives as the American Library Association's Spectrum Scholarship.

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PRIVATIZING LIBRARIES. Jerrard, Jane, Nancy Bolt, and Karen Strege. *Chicago, IL: ALA Editions, 2012, xi + 56 pp., \$45.00, ISBN 978-0-8389-1154-9.*

Before beginning this book, it is important to be aware of the position taken by the American Library Association (ALA), its publisher, on the privatization of libraries. The ALA "affirms that policy making and management oversight of public libraries should remain securely in the public domain. It formally adopted a policy against privatization in 2001" (vii).

In 2011, the ALA formed a Task Force on Privatization to look into this issue, given the economic downturn and the rise of the privatization of public libraries around the country. *Privatizing Libraries* builds on a 2011 report by this group entitled "Keeping Public Libraries Public: A Checklist for Communities Considering Privatization of Public Libraries." Nancy Bold and Karen Strege, two of this book's authors, worked on this report. *Privatizing Libraries* is a brief (just the facts, ma'am) volume on the subject of privatization; it includes an introduction and four chapters, an appendix, a bibliography, and an index.

The introduction provides readers with a brief review of the privatization of public services in general, including waste collection, management of vehicle fleets, hospitals, and emergency medical services, during the 1980s. Chapter 1, "Privatization of Public Libraries: An Overview," starts off with a definition of privatization developed by the Public Library Association (PLA), a division of the ALA, which is as follows: "the shifting of library service from the public to the private sector through transference of library management and/or assets from a government agency to a commercial company" (p. 1). Privatization also involves "all library services, and including not only how services are delivered but which services are offered and delivered" (p. 2).

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,