

NO SHELF REQUIRED: E-BOOKS IN LIBRARIES. Polanka, Sue. (ed). *Chicago, IL: American Library Association, 2011. xiii+182 pp., \$65.00, ISBN 978-0-8389-1054-2.*

What is the next generation of reading? Adult e-book reader ownership doubled in the United States between November 2010 and May 2011 from 6% to 12%, according to a June 2011 Pew Internet & American Life Project survey. Librarians understand the need to provide the material their patrons want via the medium their patrons desire. The e-book medium, however, is relatively new, and it is taking librarians and publishers time and practice to understand how to incorporate e-books into library collections.

No Shelf Required addresses factors of e-book acquisition and use as they pertain to libraries. Sue Polanka is Head of Reference and Instruction at Wright State University Libraries and moderates the blog No Shelf Required, which examines similar content as the equivalently titled book. Chapters are written by librarians, educators, and people in and associated with the publishing industry, from across the United States.

The book covers a broad spectrum of issues related to e-books. It begins with a discussion of e-books on the Internet, from the dawn of content provided by efforts such as Project Gutenberg and Perseus Digital Library to modern-day outlets including commercial sources and Google Books. The next chapter, on e-books in student education, addresses e-book use at the K-12 level. The following three chapters cover, respectively, e-book usage in school, public, and academic libraries. The public and academic chapters each includes a case study of e-book reader pilot projects. Chapter 6 discusses the acquisition of e-books, from purchase planning to cataloging. Chapter 7 considers usage statistics for and preservation of e-books. E-book standards are reviewed in the following chapter, with a look at existing standards and practices favored by libraries. The book closes with a look at the economics and future of academic e-book publishing. References are included at the end of each chapter.

No Shelf Required provides a logistical overview of incorporating e-books into library collections. In this effort, the book is quite thorough. As an academic librarian, I found myself skimming over the chapters written for school media

specialists and public librarians, although it is apparent that these chapters have useful and detailed information. Readers may choose to read only chapters relevant to their patron base or department.

The case studies were, for me, the highlights of the book. It was helpful to read how two libraries in particular experienced e-books and the feedback librarians received from their patrons, although the focus was on e-book readers. It would have been nice to see a few more case studies incorporated into the book to further exemplify how libraries are promoting patron use of e-books. Marketing e-books is discussed briefly in the school, public, and academic chapters, but I would like to have seen a deeper examination of the topic.

The book is especially relevant for collection management and acquisitions librarians, as well as those who work with the technical aspects of e-book management.

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