Curtis, Donnelyn (with contributions by Virginia M Scheschy). E-journals: a how-to-do-it manual for building, managing and supporting electronic journal collections. London: Facet, 2005 419pp. ISBN: 1-85604-541-2

This book is effectively a much-revised second edition of the author's 2000 book *Developing and managing electronic journal collections: a how-to-do-it manual for librarians.* It is intended to provide a "single, high-quality, reliable and up-to-date source about electronic journal collections for librarians to consult". The author was involved closely for over three years in developing and providing access to a large e-journal collection at the University of Nevada, Reno.

The work divides into two main sections. The initial chapters, "Understanding Electronic Journals" and "Understanding Users of Online Resources" serve as an introduction to the subject and set the stage for the more process-oriented coverage of the later chapters, which deal successively with workforce planning and management issues, collection development, licensing and user authentication, ordering and receipt, delivery and access (including electronic reserves and VLEs), user support and marketing, and usage analysis and evaluation. Technical appendices, on e-journal collection policies, standardisation of titles, e-journal web lists by subject, the aggregator-neutral record, and the use of spreadsheets to create web lists of e-journals, augment earlier coverage. Each chapter is comprehensively referenced. A companion web site, with links to the sites mentioned in the book, is available to readers at http://www.library.unr.edu/subjects/guides/ejournals.html.

The book is noteworthy for its high standard of presentation and for its measured and systematic approach. The author's treatment of her subject is detailed and comprehensive, while remaining clear and readable. Her summary account of the changes in the e-journal landscape since 2000 is invaluable. Her professional interests in user behaviour and web usability are readily apparent in the significant positioning of the "Understanding Users" chapter, and in the particularly strong and wide-ranging coverage of user support and promotion issues, in which she delves unhesitatingly into technical topics such as wireless networking, print management, web accessibility, and mobile computing.

Though much of the content of the book is applicable to workplace and specialist libraries, .the institutional and professional scenario it assumes, as one might expect, is that of the large American academic library, The author does allude in places to the UK context; brief mention is made of ATHENS authentication, and it is gratifying that several of her examples of good practice in providing access to e-journal collections are taken from British university libraries. However, her discussion of intellectual property issues covers solely US law, and she fails to make mention of any UK

institutions in respect of consortial purchasing or service evaluation. Also, LIS-E-JOURNALS is unaccountably omitted from the selection of email discussion lists for continuing professional education. Generally, however, this work can be highly commended as an invaluable reference for any information professional involved in managing e-journals. Faced with the task of reading it over a bank holiday, I found the task surprisingly enjoyable.

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