Reviews

Dealing with Natural Disasters in Libraries

Ed. by William Miller and Rita M. Pellen. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press, 2007. 260 pp. $65.00 soft cover ISBN: 9780789036100 (also published as Public Library Quarterly 25, 3/4)

It does not matter if you work at a public library, an academic library, a special library, or a school library – your library is subject to a potential disaster. Disasters can happen at any time and are not subject to your library's normal operating hours. The point is this: disasters can and do happen, and libraries and librarians need to be prepared for them. The articles collected in *Dealing with Natural Disasters in Libraries* serve as a good supplement to those preparations.

Most of the articles in this book are case studies of disasters and recovery efforts. These writings provide a useful, "hands-on" look at disaster response. A few of the articles take a different approach and look at disasters and disaster planning in a more general sense, which also provide another needed perspective. The articles include information on many types of disasters, large and small, including earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and mold outbreaks.

Nearly all of the authors in this collection stress the need for advance disaster planning. Decisions and policies made "on the fly" in the stress and chaos of a disaster may be very costly. Additionally, disaster plans need to be frequently reviewed and updated. The other primary theme that emerges in these articles is recovery from disasters. Several of the writers explain the importance of well-thought-out responses to disasters, while emphasizing quick and decisive action before the disaster worsens. Other articles focus on rebuilding facilities, getting library services up and running again, and recovering and rebuilding collections.

A fault I do have with this book is the title. The word "natural" should not have been included. This collection looks at library disasters both natural and man-made (arson, accident, etc.) and is thus broader in scope than the title would indicate. Otherwise *Dealing with Natural Disasters in Libraries* is a solid collection of articles about what can happen to a library during disasters and what recovery efforts can be made in the aftermath of these disasters. Anyone interested in library disaster planning would do well to read this book.

Russell A. Hall
John M. Lilley Library, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, 4951 College Drive, Erie, PA 16563, USA
E-mail address: rah29@psu.edu.

Digital Asset Management: Professional Video and Television File-based Libraries. 2nd ed.

By David Austerberry. Amsterdam: Elsevier/Focal Press, 2006. 344 pp. $49.95 soft cover ISBN 10: 0240808681

The second edition of this book, originally published in 2004, focuses on professional video and television file-based libraries with more information relevant to encompass broadcasters' migration to file-based production. Austerberry includes new technology and new products and more detail on systems integration and product examples plus extra case studies. The new content includes storage management where several products have been designed for the special needs of the media business, and XML and web services. The author discusses the underlying technologies of media asset management and explains the processes and operations involved in setting up a media asset management system.

Austerberry's key point is that content plus rights (value) equals an asset. The asset needs to be managed so that it can be found easily and used. For professionals in video and television libraries he advises that

> video production contains an assortment of associated unstructured information such as source tapes, audio CDs with incidental music, graphics files, production notes, the edit decision list, possibly numerous documents relating to research, and scripts. The aim of the Advanced Authoring Format (AAF) is to group these separate objects and files into

a single package. Closely linked is the Material Exchange format (MXF), a subset of AAF, for optimizing exchange of finished programs with associated metadata.

In this context, the book is geared toward content providers in commercial companies rather than academic or public libraries. Maintaining an archival copy of these digital audio and video files rates barely one page and offers inadequate coverage at that. Creators of digital asset management systems need to be thinking and planning for long-term future retrieval and use of these digital objects as much as designing systems to organize and access the files now. That is the major failure of this book, and one can only hope this shortcoming will be rectified in a third edition.

This densely written and highly technical book belongs in the specialized libraries at which it is aimed. Large academic libraries will want to purchase for advice on dealing with their digital video files.

Susan Hamburger
Paterno Library, Pennsylvania State University, Curtin Road, University Park, PA 16802, USA
E-mail address: sxh36@psulias.psu.edu.

E-journal Invasion: A Cataloger's Guide to Survival

By Helen Heinrich. Chandos Information Professional Series. Oxford: Chandos Publishing, 2007. 233 pp. price not reported soft cover ISBN 9781843341444

Helen Heinrich, cataloging coordinator at the California State University Northridge (CSUN) library, provides standards, reports, surveys, and research to support her compelling arguments regarding the MARC bibliographical format. She quotes the University of North Texas 2003 empirical study on MARC content designation utilization (MCDU), which determined that less than 50% of the over 2000 MARC 21 fields were used, while only 36 MARC fields account for 80% of all use. An empirical study by Bernhard Evensber, in which he analyzed over four million MARC records, determined that only four fields are used in 100% of the records.

Heinrich argues for the refocusing of scope, terminology, and approaches to cataloging in order to meet the needs of the electronic era. She also contends that MARC was created for self-serving purposes, and she questions the advantages and limitations of its complexity. Her final analysis indicates that this complexity may be detrimental in training librarians and the use of the MARC format.

Heinrich draws her bold arguments about the MARC format from articles by Nancy Olson, Rich Greene, Karen Calhoun, and Martha Yee. Heinrich's experience and insights provide the reader with a directed focus on AACR2 Chapters 9 and 12 and the LC rule interpretations of these chapters, along with CONSER Module 31. Throughout the text Heinrich addresses issues such as single record versus multiple records, maintenance, access points, and original cataloging versus vendor-provided records.

The author walks one through the pros and cons of public access management systems (PAMS) and how CSUN planned and used PAMS' functionality as a way to meet patron access issues. She also addresses database clean-up, FAQs, and mapping to an XML format. Heinrich concludes her remarks by reiterating the MARC format's limitations in meeting the needs of the market. These limitations caused publishers and vendors to create a unique format for productive and easy data exchange.

The author has included a list of figures and tables, acronyms, and a substantial index. The table of contents is divided into sub-sections which facilitates discovery. While the content is intended for cataloging managers, the empirical information contained in this volume is ideal for defining policy and procedures during electronic resource implementation and would be an eye-opening read for library administrators.

Judith A. Wolfe
322 Love Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 38588-4100, USA
E-mail address: jwolf1@unlnotes.unl.edu.

Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries: Issues and Solutions

Ed. by Elizabeth Connor and M. Sandra Wood. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 2007. 136 pp. US$56.70 hard cover ISBN 13: 9780789035134 (also published as *Journal of Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries* 4, 1/2)

Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries draws together an array of articles that address collaboration, dissemination, acquisition and management of electronic resources. While the 10 articles are concerned with issues and solutions within