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Review: Focus on Educating for Sustainability: Toolkit for Academic Libraries

Edited by Maria Anna Jankowska

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Jankowska, Maria Anna (Ed). *Focus on Educating for Sustainability: Toolkit for Academic Libraries*. Sacramento, CA: Library Juice Press, 2014. 273pp. ISBN: 9781936117611, paperback, US\$32.00. Recycled, acid-free paper.

Maria A. Jankowska leads 31 authors from around the U.S. in a collection of chapters on sustainability in academic libraries, from the classroom to the building and the ground it is built on. The book, printed on recycled paper, is organized by function. The first section looks at integrating sustainability literacy into information literacy, discussing classroom instruction at a variety of institutions. Most chapters focus on learning about environmental sustainability, but one in particular takes the lesson out of the classroom and into the community, giving students a hands-on approach so that they can connect with their local environment. (*Legitimizing the Local: Integrating sustainability into Information Literacy Making Research Real: Focusing on Community-Based Sustainability* p.11)

Section two discusses collections that support a sustainability curriculum. While this section only has two chapters, both are useful for the professional looking to build a collection of sustainability related materials. Section three goes on to discuss scholarship and sustainable publishing, whether through open source initiatives like the Public Knowledge Project and the open access publishing at Dartmouth College Library, or community archives such as the Denison University Homestead.

The fourth section focuses on other types of programs that may have implications outside of academia. A collection of progressive articles, the topics include “*Sustainability and the Increasing Energy Demand to Access Library Resources*” (p.247), and sustainability leadership by both librarians and libraries. A third chapter “*Sustainability: Putting Principles into Practice at a Catholic University Library*” (p.227) focuses on the physical greening of the library and campus through activities including supporting its own electricity needs, and moving servers to a cloud based system, thereby reducing technological waste and energy expended. A highlight of this final section is “*Seed Libraries: Growing a New Library Service.*” (p. 239) This chapter talks about developing a seed library, a library beyond books, and the regulation that entails while supporting the regional agriculture.

Each chapter demonstrates the strengths and weaknesses of the project it covers. Many are very well researched and involve empirical research on the part of the

authors. The authors' biographies in the back of the book help to provide a background and context for their involvement, some of passion, and some of practice. There is an index that will suffice in most cases.

This book is more of a story of sustainability than a reference. With such a wide collection of topics, most readers with interest in any area of sustainability will find something to read. Readers will glean the best information by sitting down and reading a chapter or two on a topic. This book will be a hands-on, librarian-supported guide for other librarians and libraries to take on sustainability initiatives and greening of the library world, and the world surrounding libraries, academic and otherwise. This title potentially has a wider audience than just academic librarians, however, and will appeal to librarians in other types of libraries and institutions as well as non-library faculty and administrators.

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