About Library Juice Press and Litwin Books

Library Juice Press is an imprint of Litwin Books, LLC specializing in theoretical and practical issues in librarianship from a critical perspective, for an audience of professional librarians and students of library science. Readers of the webzine and blog, Library Juice, can expect the books that we publish to be deeper investigations into topics that have been covered there over the years, including library philosophy, information policy, library activism, and in general anything that can be placed under the rubric of “critical studies in librarianship.”

Litwin Books publishes scholarly books about media, communication, libraries, and related historical topics.

Our books are printed on acid-free paper that meets present ANSI standards for archival preservation.

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Review copies of our books are available to review editors and reviewers for journals and newsletters in librarianship as well as the occasional blog.

Also, if you are a LIS professor and would like to consider using one of our texts to teach a course in a library science program, we will be happy to send you a complementary copy, absolutely no strings attached.

Availability

Our books are available from online booksellers or from your usual book jobbers.

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Librarians tend to love their work and consider librarianship a great career. This book is by a talented librarian who wants to introduce people to the profession. It answers such questions as: What do librarians do? What are the different types of libraries and professional jobs in libraries? What are librarians all about and what hot issues do they discuss in their professional lives? What do I do to become a librarian? What are some important things to know once I'm in a masters program in library science? This book is an essential introduction to the profession for people who are at the point of choosing a career.


Author Byron Anderson, compiler
Price $18.00
Published October 2006
5.5" × 8.5" / 191 pages

This directory is a unique reference tool that gathers information on significant alternative presses and places this under one cover. The presses profiled were culled from hundreds of small, active independent presses, building on the effort of the previous five editions of the directory. In total, one will find 126 U.S. presses, nineteen Canadian, and eighteen international presses having either a North American address or distributor. Thirty-three presses are new to this edition. The sense of the word “alternative” here indicates a connection to some part of the political Left. The information in this book attempts to educate and bring more awareness of alternative presses to librarians and others interested in these publications. Librarians can clearly benefit from the directory when the publications are incorporated into the library’s collection as well as its collection development procedures to expand the diversity of the collection and fill-in gaps.
Questioning Library Neutrality: Essays from Progressive Librarian

Editor Alison Lewis
Price $18.00
ISBN 978-0-9778617-7-4
Published April 2008
5.5” × 8.5” / 152 pages

Questioning Library Neutrality: Essays from Progressive Librarian presents essays that relate to neutrality in librarianship in a philosophical or practical sense, and sometimes both. They are a selection of essays originally published in Progressive Librarian, the journal of the Progressive Librarians Guild, presented in the chronological order of their appearance there. These essays, some by academics and some by passionate practitioners, offer a set of critiques of the notion of neutrality as it governs professional activity, focusing on the importance of meaningful engagement in the social sphere.

Library Juice Concentrate

Editor Rory Litwin
Price $25.00
ISBN 978-0-9778617-3-6
Published December 2006
6” × 9” / 260 pages

Library Juice Concentrate is a compilation of the best of Library Juice, an e-zine published by Rory Litwin between 1998 and 2005 that dealt with foundational questions of librarianship during a period of rapid change. Library Juice served as the record for the “Library Left” during this period, including its veterans and newcomers, while at the same time offering original reflections on traditional questions. The book includes essays and other artifacts that investigate professional neutrality, intellectual freedom, alternative literature, the social effects of technological change, the cultural identity of the librarian, “anarchist librarianship,” the Cuba debate, Google’s scanning project, subject heading reform, and other issues. The aim of the essays in Library Juice Concentrate is to provoke original thought and to encourage newcomers in the field to participate in professional discourse with confidence and with attention to the intellectual and political struggles of the past.
Information and Liberation: 
Writings on the Politics of Information and Librarianship

Author Shiraz Durrani
Price $45.00 (or £22.00)
Published December 2008
7” × 10” / 385 pages

Information and Liberation is a retrospective collection of Shiraz Durrani’s articles and conference papers on the politics of information. The book documents the struggle for progressive and relevant information policies and practices over a period of 25 years in Kenya, Britain, and other countries. The book also records the vision, struggles and achievements of many progressive librarians and activists to develop a system and a society which can meet the information, social and cultural needs of all, particularly those marginalized by forces of capitalism and imperialism.

Barbarians at the Gates of the Public Library: 
How Postmodern Consumer Capitalism Threatens Democracy, Civil Education, and the Public Good

Author Ed D’Angelo
Price $18.00
Published November 2006
5.5” × 8.5” / 139 pages

Barbarians at the Gates of the Public Library is a philosophical and historical analysis of how the rise of consumerism has led to the decline of the original mission of public libraries to sustain and promote democracy through civic education. The book begins with a reading of historical figures such as Plato, Helvetius, Rousseau, and John Stuart Mill, showing an earlier era of public discourse, and goes on to show how in the 20th century capitalism evolved into a postmodern form that replaced democracy with consumerism and education with entertainment. Public libraries have mistakenly tried to remain relevant by shadowing the rise of consumerism, but have instead contributed to the rise of a new barbarism and the decline of democracy.
Library Daylight: Tracings of Modern Librarianship, 1874–1922

Editor Rory Litwin
Price $25.00
ISBN 978-0-9778617-4-3
Published December 2006
6” × 9” / 264 pages

Library Daylight is an eclectic collection of 36 articles about libraries and librarianship published between 1874 and 1922. These articles cover topics that are hotly discussed today: library education, women’s issues, library technology, the image of librarians, copyright, the tension between libraries as educational institutions and libraries as popular centers, the nature of library service, the public sphere, library PR, librarians and political activism, and visions of the future. The sources of these articles include early ALA conference proceedings, early issues of Library Journal and other library periodicals, daily newspapers, and popular magazines. Authors range from still- well-known leaders in the field to anonymous journalists.

Mrs. Magavero: A History Based on the Career of an Academic Librarian

Author Jane Brodsky Fitzpatrick
Price $15.00
ISBN 978-0-9778617-5-0
Published December 2007
5” × 8” / 104 pages

Filomena Magavero was an academic librarian at SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx, New York, where she contended with a level of sexism that defined professional life for female librarians in the mid 20th century. This book is the story of an “everywoman” of academic libraries and a library history from the perspective of a woman in her position at the time. Included are a very useful literature review on women in mid-20th century librarianship and an oral history interview with Mrs. Magavero.
According to most histories of French archives and libraries, the nineteenth century was a period of slow but steady recovery from the trauma of the revolutionary era. In contrast, Moore argues that the organization of archives and libraries in nineteenth-century France was neither steady nor progressive. By following the development of the Ecole des Chartes, the state school for archivists and librarians, Moore shows that conceptions of “order” changed dramatically from one decade to the next. These changing notions of “order” were directly connected to contemporary shifts in state politics. Since each new political regime had its own conceptions of both national history and public knowledge, each one worked to “restore order” in a different way.

Eugène Morel (1869–1934) was a French Librarian who, along the lines of such eminent public library pioneers as Edward Edwards and Melvil Dewey, made a remarkable contribution towards the development of public librarianship in France. Morel was genuinely interested in all facets of librarianship and played a dominant role in molding the development of most of them. His writings on the profession made a fitting testimony to the life’s work of a very active library pioneer. His relationship with the British and American Library Associations helped to bring closer the French professional association to both of them. Morel had an “avant-garde” view on the automation of libraries and was the first to encourage the employment of women in French libraries. This book is the first biography of Eugene Morel to appear in the English language.
In *Personal Archives and a New Archival Calling: Readings, Reflections and Ruminations*, Richard J. Cox argues that personal archives might be assuming a new importance in society. As the technical means for creating, maintaining, and using documents are improving and becoming more cost-effective, individuals and families are seeking to preserve their old documents, especially traditional paper forms, as a connection to a past that may seem to be in risk of being swallowed up in the immense digital gadgetry in our Internet Age. There is a reversal to other technologies as well, such as leather bound journals and fountain pens, by some individuals resisting or protesting the increasingly digital world they reside in. Personal recordkeeping raises a remarkable array of issues and concerns about records and their preservation, public or collective memory, the mission of professional records managers and archivists, the nature of the role of the institutional archives, and the function of the individual citizen as their own archivist.

*From Polders to Postmodernism: A History of Archival Theory* is a broad ranging history of the conception and development of the theories that have guided archivists in their work from the late 19th through the early 21st centuries. Narrated through the controversial thread of archival appraisal theory, the book examines how archivists have engaged with theory through the tension between keeping records that reflect objective history “as it happened” and subjective decision making in the archive. Through an interpretive reading of archival theory, distinct periods emerge, with each paradigm contributing unique responses to difficult archival, historical, and theoretical contexts.
Responsible Librarianship: Library Policies for Unreliable Systems

Author David Bade
Price $22.00
ISBN 978-0-9778617-6-7
Published February 2008
5.5” × 8.5” / 192 pages

This book was written in the wake of the decision at the Library of Congress to cease to provide controlled series access in bibliographic records. Its three papers examine library policies and organizational structures in light of the literature of ergonomics, high reliability organizations, joint cognitive systems and integrational linguistics. Bade argues that many policies and structures have been designed and implemented on the basis of assumptions about technical possibilities, ignoring entirely the political dimensions of local determination of goals and purposes as well as the lessons from ergonomics, such as the recognition that people are the primary agents of reliability in all technical systems. Looking at various policies for metadata creation and the results of those policies forces the question: is there a responsible human being behind the library web site and catalog, or have we abandoned the responsibilities of thinking and judgment in favor of procedures, algorithms and machines?

MISCELLANEOUS

Slow Reading

Author John Miedema
Price $12.00
ISBN 978-0-9802004-4-7
Published March 2009
5.06” × 7.81” / 192 pages

Slow Reading examines the research in voluntary slow reading, from the earliest references in religion and philosophy, to the practice of close reading in the humanities, and the recent swell of interest associated with the Slow Movement. It looks at the diverse angles from which slow reading has been approached in education, library sciences and media studies. Research in psychology and neurophysiology provides a tentative explanation for the ongoing role of slow reading. The theme of locality in the Slow Movement provides insight into the importance of physical location in our relationship with information. Most of all, Slow Reading represents a rediscovery of the pleasure of reading for its own sake.
Library of Walls: The Library of Congress and the Contradictions of Information Society

Author Samuel Gerald Collins
Price $32.00
Published April 2009
6” × 9” / 216 pages

In *Library of Walls*, Samuel Collins engages the heterogeneities of information society at the Library of Congress through ethnographic fieldwork, suggesting that “information society” is best understood at the locus of conflicting modalities imbricating text, space, work and life. During the 1990s, the Library of Congress was beset with challenges to its traditional roles in cataloging and scholarship while at the same time re-inventing itself as a library “without walls.” The “order of books” was threatened on several fronts: in the explosive growth of accessions, in the challenges of online materials and different container types, and in fundamental disagreements about the role of the Library vis-à-vis the nation.

Forty Years in the Struggle: The Memoirs of a Jewish Anarchist

Author Chaim Leib Weinberg
Translator Naomi Cohen
Price $28.00
ISBN 978-0-9802004-3-0
Published May 2009
6” × 9” / 228 pages

This story, told by one colorful figure among the anarchists of Philadelphia, does not tell the entire story of the city’s movement, nor does one man’s experience with anarchism present the long and dramatic saga of the idea and its believers. The memoirs of Chaim Leib Weinberg offer an interesting sliver of a larger picture, holding to an exclusively working class, folkloric niche. The author was an incredible orator and story teller: these were the talents that set him apart from most of his contemporaries. Because he devoted half a century to practicing his oral craft, he left a clear mark on the radical culture he lived within.
Speaking of Information: The Library Juice Quotation Book

Compiler Rory Litwin
Editor Martin Wallace
Price $15.00
ISBN 978-0-9802004-1-6
Published June 2009
5.06” × 7.81” / 172 pages

Speaking of Information: The Library Juice Quotation Book is a compilation of quotations originally collected for the “Quotes of the Week” section of Library Juice, an e-zine published by Rory Litwin between 1998 and 2005 that dealt with philosophical and political dimensions of librarianship. Persons quoted include famous, not-so-famous, and infamous figures from classical to contemporary periods. Librarians are quoted, as well as intellectuals, politicians, novelists, scientists, celebrities, and other commentators. Some quotes are about libraries and librarians, others are about intellectual freedom, and others are about the information society from a philosophical perspective. A central thread tying these quotations together is the idea of the library as servant and protector of the public sphere. A rich collection easily dipped in and out of...

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FORTHCOMING FROM LIBRARY JUICE PRESS

Critical Library Instruction: Theories and Methods, edited by Emily Drabinski, Alana Kumbier, and Maria Accardi

Out Behind the Desk: Workplace Issues for LGBTQ Librarians, edited by Tracy Nectoux


Spanish For Libraries, by Freda Mosquera

She Was a Booklegger: Remembering Celeste West, edited by Toni Samek and K. R. Roberto

The Underside of Professionalism: A Radically Traditional Proposal for Librarianship, by Juris Dilevko


Greening Libraries, by Monika Antonelli and Mark McCullough

...and, if we can work out the permissions, a collection of the best of the SRRT Newsletter

FORTHCOMING FROM LITWIN BOOKS

Prophets of the Fourth Estate: Broadsides by Press Critics of the Progressive Era, edited by Amy Reynolds and Gary Hicks

A Copyright Guide for Visual Artists, by Rachel Bridgewater and Kohel Haver

Linguistics Simplified, by Chongwon Park

Ambient Media, by Cyan Meeks

Red and Blue By the Numbers, by Larry Romans

Rebel Literacy: Cuba’s National Literacy Campaign and Critical Global Citizenship, by Mark Abendroth

A Space for Hate: The White Power Movement’s Adaptation into Cyberspace, by Adam Klein

…and a collection of the speeches of Hugh Pentecost