

Foreword

This book has come along just as the world of information is called to reflect on itself following the explosion of social networking and digital content. Technology has overtaken the profession by storm; after the storm always creates a new balance. Yet unknown opportunities await for those who enter an expanding profession in librarianship, knowledge management, and cultural preservation, all to the future of a profession that is still evolving.

Contributors are interviewed from their individual perspectives where successes are celebrated, challenges and overcome, and all share a dedication both to the profession and to cultural gatekeeping. A few found models to emulate, some relied on networking in broadening their positions, while others found their own way into leadership positions. All share a passion that uphold the unique and important mandates of their libraries and organizations.

Libraries can be seen as cultural and educational centers in their communities since the beginning of their existence. We may have overlooked how much we have advanced in bringing the leadership into our communities, by being too engaged in keeping our libraries current with technology. Libraries have long been designated as community spaces for exhibits and programs, but what we have seen in recent years is a profound expansion in how these spaces are being reinvented and re-envisioned.

This is an important work that enables readers to walk out of their own positions wherever they may be and the types of programs and services that the needs and priorities of patrons with other cultural identities. The reader will get a much richer insight into the libraries of the world, by reading the stories of successful programs and partnerships; they will become wiser in their own realms as professionals and will benefit the world that they had entered to serve their users.



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