Information Technology in Librarianship (review)

Rick Kopak

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services and resources for children and teens. Although the international perspective is quite selective, those with a particular interest in story-telling in Canada could complement this volume with *Telling Tales: Storytelling in the Family* by Gail de Vos, Merle Harris, and Celia Barker Lottridge (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2003). Similarly, those with a stronger interest in the research validating the importance of story reading and storytelling in cognitive and literacy development could complement Greene and Del Negro's practical manual with Kendall Haven's *Story Proof: The Science behind the Startling Power of Story* (Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2007).

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Gloria J. Leckie and John E. Buschman, eds. *Information Technology in Librarianship.* Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2009. ISBN 978-1-59158-629-6. US$50.00.

This edited collection of essays is a reprise of a 1993 work by John Buschman. The goal of the earlier work was "to look soberly and critically at the phenomenon of information technology in our profession and in our institutions" from a critical perspective based on a number of extant, analytical approaches. This general theme continues in the current volume with the additional purpose of updating the thinking surrounding these approaches as they apply to the increasingly dynamic and even more compelling technological environment we find ourselves in today. As stated by the editors in the introductory chapter, "alternative perspectives on our library technological juggernauts need to be renewed so that they may be an effective part of the discussions over technology in libraries."

The critical ethos invoked to guide discussion throughout the essays is based on Ricouer's interpretive method aimed at exposing the interests concealed behind what might be, and otherwise is, indifferently accepted as quite sensible "matters of fact," in this case, focusing on the role and effect of information technologies on our social structures and personal identities. Within this larger critical orientation, six themes are outlined and addressed in each of the essays comprising the volume: capital con-trol of technology; rationalization, control, and monitoring; the informa-tion revolution as ideology; feminist critiques; technological utopianism; and technology politics and the public sphere.

In a manner similar to the 1993 volume, the book is divided into two parts. Part 1, "Foundations," contains a series of five articles providing "metalevel critical analyses and overviews of technologically related issues." Andrew Feenberg, in an excellent introductory essay, outlines the role of accommodating the interests of philosophy and technology toward a more useful synthesis of the empirical and the theoretical. Gary T. Marx's essay on surveillance, its relationship to privacy, and the rise of new surveillance techniques raises important questions concerning the assessment of surveillance practices. From an autonomist Marxist perspective, the relationship between digital-age workers and the influence of capital on the Internet is addressed by Nick Dyer-Witheford. Rounding out these foundational essays are Ross Collin's and Michael W. Apple's works on the "pedagogy of multiliteracies," and Sandra Braman's paper on the effect of technology on the relationship between libraries and the state.

The essays in Part 2 focus on applications, where "authors examine both macro- and microlevel processes and effects surrounding information technology–library relationships and the implications of those relationships for libraries, librarians, users of libraries, and LIS as a discipline." John Budd leads with a disciplinary perspective, noting how in information science we continue to offer technology as a solution in search of a problem, and proposing that research should attend more closely to the "critical study of informing." Michael F. Winter follows with an essay on labour processes in libraries and the effects of the changing division of labour as new technologies are introduced. From a critical feminist point of view, Roma Harris discusses the relationship between gender and technology within libraries and the effect technology has in reducing the perceived efficacy of more process-oriented, relationship-based activities between librarians and library users. In examining the use of information technologies by children, Andrew Large calls for research that maximizes information technologies' "potential to enrich the lives of young people" while minimizing its harmful effects. Ajit Pyati addresses the role of open source software in libraries and the questions this raises about libraries' ability to "re-envision alternatives" to the dominant, corporate software culture. On a related theme, Gloria Leckie, Lisa Given, and Grant Campbell question why online public access catalogues, in all their forms, remain so underwhelming in comparison to the many alternatives available to most users, and introduces a means to study the "mode of social regulation" in libraries that work to enforce the continued use of these systems. Dorothy Warner, in the last of the "applied" chapters,

signals the need for a more substantial critical perspective on digital preservation, particularly in the areas of standards, digitization methods, and cost.

The essays in this collection make a substantial contribution to an area of the library and information science literature that has been woefully underserved. The quality of writing is uniformly good, and the breadth of coverage excellent. With few exceptions, the essays reflect a profound connection between the critical perspectives outlined in Leckie and Buschman's introduction, and the substantive focus of each essay has a wide potential audience, including not only academics, students, and practitioners, but also members of the general readership interested in alternative perspectives on the role of information technology in society.

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Michèle Hudon, avec la participation de Danièle Dégez et Dominique Ménillet. *Guide pratique pour l'élaboration d'un thésaurus documentaire.* Montréal : Éditions ASTED, 2009. ISBN 978-2-923563-17-6 (broché). CAN 49,95 $.

Ce guide pratique reprend la structure et le contenu d'un ouvrage originalement publié en 1994 et vient combler un vide en matière d'ouvrage de référence francophone sur le thésaurus documentaire. Cette version actualisée et enrichie que proposent Michèle Hudon, professeure agrégée à l'École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information de l'Université de Montréal, et ses collaboratrices françaises, Danièle Dégez et Dominique Ménillet, rend compte de l'évolution qu'a connue le domaine de l'analyse et de la recherche documentaires au cours des dernières années. Le thésaurus, son élaboration et son développement y sont décortiqués avec clarté et précision ; la portée à la fois didactique et pratique de cet ouvrage devrait rejoindre tant l'étudiant que le professionnel de l'information.

Le thésaurus documentaire y est d'abord présenté en relation avec d'autres outils d'indexation, notamment dans une comparaison détaillée avec la liste de vedettes-matière. La structure relationnelle du thésaurus y est ensuite décrite. On notera la présence d'un chapitre entier sur le thésaurus multilingue, fort pertinent en contextes canadien et européen, où sont illustrées avec justesse les difficultés et l'importance du respect