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The Accidental Law Librarian by Anthony Aycock (review)

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Les articles de cette quatrième partie se caractérisent par la variété des méthodes utilisées et combinées (analyse lexicale, analyse probabiliste, apprentissage supervisé, intégration de connaissances sur les réformes orthographiques du français, les archaïsmes et néologismes, etc.). Deux articles me paraissent particulièrement intéressants. Le premier, Apprentissage supervisé et paresseux pour la fouille de textes (Christian Raymond et Vincent Claveau, équipe IRISA-CNRS Insa de Rennes) montre que l'emploi de classifieurs très complexes est contre-performant pour cette tâche spécifique de datation. Le second, Méthodes pour l'archéologie linguistique : datation par combinaison d'indices temporels (Anne García-Fernandez, Anne-Laure Ligozat, Delphine Bernhard et Marco Dinarelli du LIMSI-CNRS France) est intéressant pour son utilisation de ressources externes (Wikipédia, Google Books) pour prendre en compte l'évolution diachronique d'une langue en combinaison avec des techniques classiques de classifications supervisées.

Pour conclure, cet ouvrage satisfera particulièrement l'ingénieur ou l'enseignant-chercheur linguiste, informaticien linguiste, informaticien, spécialiste des techniques d'extraction d'information et/ou de classification supervisées ou non, qui y trouvera à la fois un panorama des méthodes symboliques, statistiques et distributionnelles, une grande variété de techniques de prétraitement des données d'entrée (pour prendre en compte leurs spécificités), mais aussi des arguments pour orienter ses choix dans le développement d'un système à finalité de fouille de textes et enfin une méthodologie pour l'évaluation des performances de ce type de système. Cet ouvrage est également une vitrine de la recherche francophone en ingénierie de la langue et une contribution importante au développement d'un socle technologique et méthodologique francophone pour la fouille de textes. De fortes compétences en linguistique informatique, en classification et analyse de données sont nécessaires pour tirer pleinement profit des richesses des contributions.

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Anthony Aycock. *The Accidental Law Librarian*. Medford, NJ: Information Today, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-57387-477-9. CDN\$43.00.

Like for many librarians, the idea of legal research sends chills up my spine. Give me an obscure contemporary art question or an overly technical business question any day, but until I finished *The Accidental Law Librarian*, it seemed that legal research and reference assistance was best left to those who had completed a *juris doctor* and possibly even several years as a lawyer or judge. With *The Accidental Law Librarian*, the latest in the *Accidental* series, Anthony Aycock has done an excellent job of making the world of legal resources and research much more accessible to those who do not face these types of questions on a daily basis.

Each of the 10 chapters in this book covers useful topics such as primary and secondary sources (different from primary and secondary sources in humanities research); Westlaw and LexisNexis, as well as lesser-known databases; looseleafs and supplements; and searches for public information. Aycock does a good job of pointing out search strategies, access points, and insider tricks that will help any beginner. Possibly the most useful feature in this resource is the section of sample questions with answers at the end of the book. In this section, there is a listing of nearly 100 actual questions from three different libraries. Aycock provides short descriptions of how he would handle each question, including resources he would use or suggest to the patron.

Although this book will be a helpful primer for librarians looking to brush up on legal research skills, there are some limitations to this resource. First, the book really is for beginners. There is enough information included to get someone started with legal research, but it is neither comprehensive nor detailed enough to be of use to librarians who already know the basics or to those who will be working primarily with legal resources.

Second, several of the examples focused on the methods for accessing information in North Carolina. The author notes that methods and resources will vary in different states but rarely gives examples or assistance in this area. As part of this narrow focus, the book is exclusively focused on legal research in the United States and does not mention the similarities or differences in providing legal assistance in other countries.

Finally, Aycock seemed to strain to provide relevant experiences from his work to illustrate the text. Several of the examples the author shared demonstrated a real need for refresher courses in customer service and reference interview skills, which distracted from the content and did not inspire a feeling of confidence in the author's skills as a librarian. There is also an overtly sexist story about a fictional lawyer that was used as an example several times in the book.

However, even with the limitations of the resource, I would recommend the book to librarians who have little experience with legal resources and research. Aycock has done a good job of making the world of court cases, statutes, and legal forms more accessible.

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