



PROJECT MUSE®

Information Policies and Strategies by Ian Cornelius
(review)

John M. Budd

Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science, Volume 39, Number
1, March/mars 2015, pp. R3-R4 (Review)

Published by University of Toronto Press
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/ils.2015.0006>



➔ *For additional information about this article*
<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/586353>

introduction. Regardless of their cultural background, the librarians speak of their deep connections to their particular communities, the socio-economic and educational barriers they have struggled to overcome, their diverse pathways to professional careers, their strategies for coping with a lack of mentorship, and their experiences of racism and exclusion in the workplace.

This collection of personal histories is an important contribution to the history and sociology of librarianship in Canada. It will be an invaluable resource to new librarians from Aboriginal and visible minority communities, but, just as importantly, it should be read widely by non-visible minority librarians and library administrators to illustrate the value and expertise that multicultural librarians can bring to the profession and the importance of creating inclusive and equitable workplaces.

Vivian Howard, associate professor, School of Information Management, Dalhousie University

Ian Cornelius. *Information Policies and Strategies*. London: Facet, 2010. 224 pages. ISBN 978-1-85604-677-0. CDN\$120.

This is a book with many fine qualities and few, if any, weaknesses. Ian Cornelius is a noted scholar (with a deserved international reputation) whose work is always thorough and entirely accessible to any reader. He states at the very outset: “This is an introductory book about information policy. It takes the form of a discussion of the issues that affect the determination of what policy should be, and a discussion of which mechanisms give effect to the intended policy” (p. xi). He is true to his claim. This is not a deep treatise on any particular policy or initiative but succeeds as a *critical* introduction to what policy is, what topics are important fodder for policy considerations, and how policy is shaped.

In the course of the book Cornelius addresses eight issues: globalization and information societies; information policy and the public sphere; information rights and information policy; censorship, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression; arguments for protecting speech; privacy and data protection; form of information; and intellectual property. Some readers may be tempted to criticize him for what is *not* included, but it can be argued that he includes some of the most pressing national and international matters facing everyone interested in, and working with, policy today. His examples are, in fact, international, but he draws most heavily from the United Kingdom and the United States. It may be surmised that limitations exist so that the introductory nature of the book can succeed (which it does).

While the book is introductory, it is decidedly not superficial. In the introduction Cornelius offers a sophisticated analysis of how policy arises and what factors influence those who are charged with formulating policy. He speaks at some length on how governments create policies—including regulations and laws—as part of the most fundamental purposes and workings of their existence.

He addresses the messy issues of the contexts within which and for which policies are generated and recognizes that “this also raises a question about who information policy is for” (p. 11). Policy has a variety of needs, and Cornelius recognizes and describes many of those needs through his treatment of the various kinds and purposes of policy.

In fact, each chapter and section of the book flows into the next, so that there is a relatively seamless treatment of policy needs that relates one to the next. For example, his discourse on the public sphere is necessary for the discussion of censorship and other topics. What constitutes a public sphere contributes to (if it does not determine) what constitutes freedom of speech and freedom of expression. Those freedoms rely on rights—individual and government—that precede freedoms. In the real world, Cornelius says, “we must consider what actually happens as well as what we intend” (p. 88). If information is seen as a marketplace, then it must be accepted that governments do much to regulate markets for information, just as they regulate all types of markets. Cornelius does, though, present thoroughly considered arguments for free speech, particularly those articulated by Joshua Cohen.

Cornelius’s book is no polemic, which is refreshing in itself. It is intended to be, and succeeds as, a careful beginning, well argued and presented, for those who would delve more deeply into information policy. This work would be a splendid introduction to anyone who yearns to know more about the fundamental nature and principles of information policy. Perhaps especially, this work would make an excellent textbook for any course on the subject.

John M. Budd, professor, School of Information Science and Learning Technologies, University of Missouri

Michael F. Bemis. *Library and Information Science: A Guide to Key Literature and Sources*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2014. 304 pages. ISBN 978-0-8389-1185-3. US\$67.

This is an annotated bibliography of library and information science literature, circa 2000–2012. Michael Bemis outlines his aims: “to collect as much of the available information sources regarding various aspects of the profession as reasonably possible and then to organize them in a logical fashion” (p. xi). Both aims are enormous undertakings, and this is a worthy successor of the *ARBA* (*American Reference Books Annual*) (p. 132).

Nearly 1,600 entries are organized according to Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH). Thus, the contents of each chapter are taken to be self-evident (Bemis feels the need to justify the inclusion of chapter 11, “Epistemology and Philosophy,” however, even when he lists a risible three monographs).

The unbalanced nature of this bibliography is exacerbated by the use of LCSH as its organizing device. Indicative of this is “Library Science, History of,” which merits five items, and (without getting into the library/information or