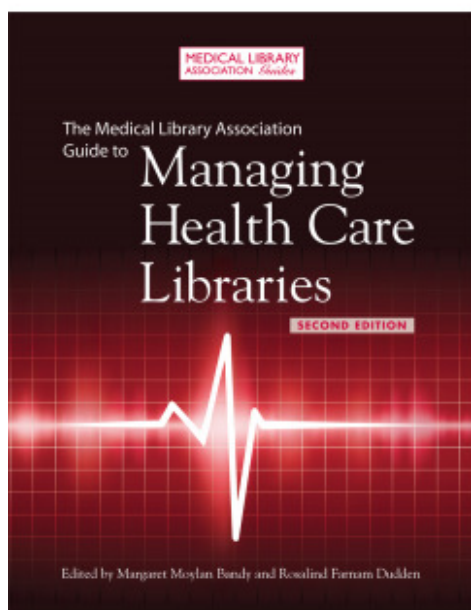


Book review



Moylan Bandy M., Farnham Dudden R. *The Medical Library Association guide to managing health care libraries. (2nd ed.)*

**London: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2011.
ISBN 9781555707347. 425 pages. \$99.95**

This book is aimed at information professionals working in a range of healthcare library settings. Its focus has expanded from the original 2001 edition to encompass those working in academic and research settings, as well as those working in clinical contexts. It is extensive in its coverage of all aspects of managing healthcare libraries, including the management of both staff and services.

Staff management features heavily, with sections on Human Resources Management in general and specific tasks from recruitment to managing staff. Practical examples are used to embellish theoretical information. There is some information that is US specific, for example about Unions and Profession

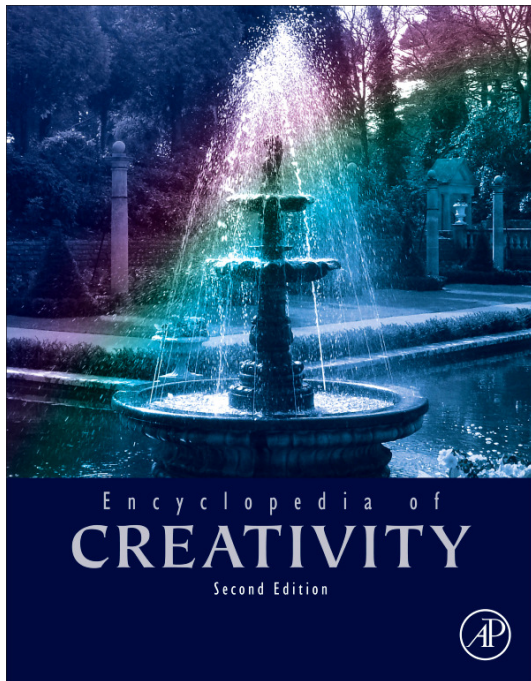
Associations, but this is balanced by its excellent coverage of broader issues.

The book is thorough, examining aspects of management from different perspectives. Collection Management is examined at its theoretical level and at a practical, technical level. There are useful references peppered throughout the book, for example sources for training materials which would be useful for personal and staff development. The information is highly practical, providing explanations of different aspects of services as well as different service models and practical considerations. The language used throughout is technical, without being difficult to understand. There are sections explaining specific technologies, such as Shibboleth and RSS.

The chapter on Knowledge Management is thorough and would prove useful to many as it is increasingly being incorporated in to library services. It is also helpful as it is in the context of healthcare and is written in an accessible style for non-experts. There are also chapters covering broader themes such as medical training, this information is naturally US-specific. However, many concepts, such as Continuing Medical Education, are applicable to the UK and are explained in sufficient detail to make them useful.

This is a very comprehensive book, balancing a breadth of coverage with a high level of detail. Although some information is US specific and it is expensive (roughly £60), it would make a useful addition to a staff library, being of use to a range of staff in a variety of roles.

Elly O'Brien, Bazian Ltd.



Runco, M. and Pritzker, S.R. (eds).
***Encyclopedia of creativity.* (2nd ed.)**
London: Academic Press, 2011. ISBN
9780123750396. 1384 pages. £245.

I was interested in reviewing the Encyclopedia of Creativity because I thought it may offer inspiration when implementing knowledge management initiatives and it could offer insight into generating new ideas and innovations. It is a two volume weighty book aimed at students and others with an interest in creativity research. The encyclopedia is designed to "inspire further recognition of personal and professional benefits that accrue from encouraging creativity" and the editors "hope readers will roam outside usual areas of interest and search for new ways of thinking and insights about themselves, their work and place in the world" (p. xxi).

It is written by academics from a variety of different disciplines. Each section has a glossary and list of references. An index appears at the start of each volume and a contents page at the end of the second volume. The encyclopedia covers creativity and education (e.g. intelligence, prodigies), cognitive aspects (e.g. styles, problem solving, metaphors), work (e.g. creativity coaching and exercises, innovation, group dynamics, organisational culture and development), creative processes (e.g. emotion, inspiration, novelty, insight), society, personal (e.g. collaboration, family, life stages, network, self-actualisation), scientific information (e.g. brain and neuropsychology, research, definitions of creativity), theory (e.g. behavioural approaches, economics), creative processes (e.g. intentions, drive) and mental and physical health.

The book is written by a range of experts from different countries with the majority giving an American perspective. The style is quite formal but readable and concepts are explained well. I felt that it is a collection of articles rather than an encyclopedia. However, the content for some topics such as the section on knowledge management were not in depth (focusing on systems rather than people), although given the allotted space the authors could only give a quick overview. The range of topics was appealing and ranged from characteristics of eccentrics, attitudes and traits of creative people to handwriting and creativity. The inclusion of biographies of creative people (such as Frida Kahlo, Julia Child) was insightful but seemed like an added extra and didn't really fit in with the tone of the rest of the book. The title may lead readers to expect the contents to be presented in a creative way. Although the layout of each section is clear, adding more images/diagrams would have been beneficial. Each section includes a list of further reading and they are generally well referenced. It would have been useful to identify the in-text citations by including a publication date in the text.

Overall, the book does fulfil its aims and is timely, given the increasing interest in developing new approaches and products. It will be of interest to subject librarians with responsibility for psychology and creative courses and others who want to find out about the theoretical viewpoints. However, the print price may be prohibitive and cheaper alternatives with contributors from the UK have been published.

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