

## BOOK REVIEW / CRITIQUE DE LIVRE

**Electronic resources in medical libraries: issues and solutions.** Edited by Elizabeth Connor and M. Sandra Wood. New York: Haworth Press, 2007. 136 pages (hard cover). ISBN 978-0789035134. US\$90.00.

Like most Haworth Press books, *Electronic resources in medical libraries: issues and solutions*, is also known as Volume 4, Number 1/2, 2007 of the *Journal of Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries*. Consequently, this book is a collection of journal articles on a topic near and dear and, in some cases, not so dear, to our minds and hearts. Such topics as electronic licensing, providing access, processing, and cataloguing electronic resources in health and medical libraries are covered in this collection.

Edited by Elizabeth Connor and Sandra Wood, both widely published authors and librarians with extensive careers in health sciences libraries, this book represents the wide range of experiences, challenges, and issues that face us as we incorporate electronic resources into our libraries. There is something here for everyone! As diverse as our work situations and environments may be, and while we are all at different points on the electronic adaptation continuum, this collection of articles reminds us of the many shifts and adaptations libraries have had to undergo in a short while.

The business and economics of licensing agreements are the focus of the first three articles. While issues addressed in these articles are perhaps new to some smaller libraries, all are still being resolved in most libraries. The experiences described here may benefit those at various stages in the electronic adaptation continuum. "Scholarly e-journal pricing models" is a short but concise introduction to the open access debate provided by Wineburgh-Free.

"Extending electronic resource licenses to a newly established overseas medical school branch" and "Access to health information in Latin American and the Caribbean" remind us of the inequities in resource access caused by both geography and economics.

"Integrating e-resources into an online catalogue: the hospital library experience" details a process that took place about 10 years ago and provides insight into the perpetual

challenges faced when a small staff undertakes a project of this scope. As a former systems librarian in a hospital library, I could closely identify with the experience described in this article.

In my current position, in which I provide library services to geographically dispersed health care practitioners, I was interested to read what Julie A. Garrison and Pam Gruzien discovered in their research on off-campus user behaviours in the article "Off campus user behavior: are they finding electronic journals on their own or still ordering through document delivery". Rick Ralston's article examines whether usage statistics supplied by vendors are accurate enough to be used in making journal cancellation decisions.

Articles for both the legally and philosophically minded are also available in Connor and Wood's collection. Bruce Strauch, Earl Walker, and Mark Benesee examine the legal implications of medical libraries' active participation in electronic delivery of information through their Web sites. While historically courts have exempt publishers from negligence arising from erroneous medical information, the blurring of data and product in the Web environment raises legal issues we should be aware of, if not consider.

Jon C. Ferguson demystifies the Semantic Web by providing a concrete example of how Web technologies can be applied to digital libraries. He accomplishes this by drawing on examples of the Initiative for Maternal Mortality Programme Assessment (IMMPACT) experience.

Although some of the issues and challenges described in this collection will be old news for some of us, Connor and Wood's collection affords readers a variety of experiences about the adoption of electronic resources into medical libraries. This book provides both an introduction for the novice and a historical record of what can be considered a critical turning point in medical libraries. The collection has an extensive index, one or two colour illustrations, and is available electronically and in hard copy!

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