one interested in Cuban library history, for example, must dig out a few nuggets from five columns on the Caribbean.

The *EoLH* is certainly not an unwieldy tome, but that convenience comes at a price. The word limit for some articles was simply too small, forcing authors to write in vague generalities; for example, a certain library "moved ahead with core programs." And although the *Library Bill of Rights* is quite short, it is not quoted in the article on that topic. Because of their brevity, the entries for small countries are less informative than the longer articles for major countries. Bibliographical references—occasionally quite dated—have been deliberately restricted, with only one or two citations for the shorter articles, while the longest entries may have five to seven references.

The editors largely accomplished the difficult task of harmonizing and unifying the work of a great many contributors, and there are only occasional errors in foreign-language phrases. In their introduction they signal their hope to redress the inevitable imbalances and omissions in subsequent editions. Examples: there is no entry for the Linda Hill Library or for the Enoch Pratt, although the Boston Public Library can be found; bibliotherapy has its own entry, but bibliometrics does not. The treatment of the impact of technology on libraries is generally weak. While the discussion of chained books in medieval armaria is entertaining, I missed a good outline of the history of OPACs.

Despite the flaws of this work, the production of a reliable and informative, one-volume encyclopedia is a laudable accomplishment. The *EoLH*, with its historical focus, supplements and complements the practical side of library education; I wish there had been a book like this to place in my hands when I finished library school. However, since the volume has no tables, charts, or illustrations, the $95 price tag seems high.—John B. Rutledge, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.


The development of this report was supported by the Council on Library Resources. Its purpose is to assist librarians to "keep abreast of new developments...[in order that they] can shape the future, lay claim to crucial roles, and ensure that the new digital libraries reflect their own values and are not replaced by those of other professions." The objectives of the project were (1) to identify the literature published on this topic between the years 1983 and 1994; (2) to create a digital database of document surrogates; (3) to generate an analytical bibliography; and (4) to provide a synthesis of the ideas.

The report has several useful features. First, the report can be retrieved at no cost via anonymous FTP from sils.umich.edu, which then allows the files to be searched and manipulated at will. The verso of the contents page carries detailed information on how to access the files, which are available in both Mac and DOS formats. ProCite software is necessary to use the DOS files.


The subdivisions under the main headings are helpfully specific. For example, 3. Digital Libraries is broken down to 3.1 Definitions; 3.2 Impetus; 3.2.1 Putting a Halt to Building New Facilities; 3.2.2 Reducing or Controlling Costs; 3.2.3 Harnessing Enabling Technologies; 3.2.4 Accepting the Access Paradigm Shift. This information is presented in a two-column format, with
quotations to the left and Drabenstott’s summarizing commentary to the right. It is possible to read only her commentary to get a general overview of the issues and to ignore the actual quotations. The overall effect is similar to reviewing a researcher’s raw notes.

Section 9, “Digital Library Projects,” is particularly helpful to gain an overview of ongoing projects. Twenty-three projects are described by (1) Name, (2) Years active, (3) Principal institution, (4) Principal partners, (5) Objectives, (6) Content coverage, (7) Hardware/software, and (8) Sources of published information on the project.

Drabenstott pulls her commentary together into a synthesis in Section 12, “Whither Libraries?” In Section 13, “A Sense of Urgency,” she exhorts librarians to become involved at all levels in working with all players now shaping the library of the future. The tone in these sections is often strident. She warns repeatedly in several sections that “the direct involvement of librarians in the creation of the digital library will be necessary to ensure that this new form of library reflects our own values and that our values are not replaced by those of other professions or stakeholders.” She is not explicit as to what these values are and why they are not shared by other professions and stakeholders. This vagueness tends to lessen the impact of her assertions.

Drabenstott has brought together the key ideas of commentators and players involved in the modernization and transformation of scholarly communications from the library perspective. It is a highly useful benchmark.—Nina W. Matheson, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

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