Todd Gilman, ed., *Academic Librarianship Today*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017, 248pp., \$70.00.

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Until recently, those seeking a current overview of academic librarianship in one place had few options. With technology imposing new demands and user preferences, academic librarians have obligations to keep up with evolving priorities from both the academic community and tech-savvy patrons. A thorough and engaging exploration of academic librarianship in 2017, Todd Gilman's compilation *Academic Librarianship Today* brings together 20 prominent voices in North America to deliver a single, essential volume on the field.

Academic Librarianship Today is at once both comprehensive in scope and succinct in delivery. The three themes addressed in the book are the current academic library landscape, academic librarians and their services, and changing priorities and directions for the future. Fifteen chapters include topics such as academic governance, budgeting, metadata, library as place, distance education, and institutional repositories. Each chapter concludes with discussion questions and assignments, adding value for classroom use, and many include bibliographies and further readings. The authors of the individual chapters include division heads, directors, and university librarians, topic experts representing a variety of North American post-secondary institutions. Almost all authors are based in the United States, with one author based in Canada. Gilman brings both library and literary experience, and the book reflects these dual strengths. Gilman's roles include English literature librarian at Yale, part-time faculty member at the San José State University School of Information, and researcher and author in both academic librarianship and English literature.

Section one, "The Academic Library Landscape Today," provides the historical development of academic libraries, an overview of where they fit into their institutions, and key issues in funding and scholarly communication. As priorities at their institutions shifted over the years, academic libraries and librarians adapted from the early days of mainly supporting curriculum, to expanding local and research collections, to incorporating technological advances, to adjusting to

users who became comfortable accessing information themselves. Deanna Marcum shows that change and adaptability have been constants through the history of academic libraries. Those seeking insight into the complicated structures of academic governance will appreciate an overview by Barbara Dewey. She discusses the groups that influence the academic library as well as the departments often closely linked, such as IT and student success centres. Dewey reminds readers that librarians and library staff must be present at the right tables and stay visible within the academic institution. Depending on its size, the academic library itself may also have a complicated organizational structure. Starr Hoffman sheds light on this and key human resources issues such as unions, job types, and the potential for a grey area between librarian and paraprofessional responsibilities.

The funding issues academic libraries have faced and are facing is a timely topic explored in the first section. Canadian readers will find limited examples or discussion of additional hurdles faced by those north of the border, especially when it comes to currency fluctuations and differences in institutional funding channels. The authors show how, in the face of budgetary challenges, librarians have adapted by creating consortia to maintain collections offerings, building off-site facilities for lower-cost storage options, and becoming increasingly invested in more sustainable methods of scholarly communication.

With the interesting and necessary background covered, the second section of the book, “Academic Librarians and Services Today,” provides a look at the essential units and functions within the academic library, including reference, instruction, collections, and technical services. Carrie Forbes and Peggy Keeran provide clarity around the role of liaison librarians as a bridge to their departments and discuss the evolution of information literacy instruction, from focusing on resources to skills. They present the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy as a flexible guideline open to implementation based on individual library needs. The authors also stress the necessity of teaching students about broader information issues as well as specific skills. Lydia Uziel recommends that, now and into the future, librarians continue developing skills in curating digital content and facilitating access to all types of collections, including research data, digital humanities projects, and all components of the scholarly life cycle.

Autumn Faulkner’s chapter addresses the technical issues faced by cataloguing, now more commonly known as metadata. AACR2, MARC, and RDA are discussed, as well as emerging systems such as FRBR and BibFrame. Faulkner describes these in an accessible way, while highlighting the discoverability possibilities if library catalogues were interconnected with the semantic web. In addition, Faulkner states librarians would do well to pay closer attention to technological and web innovations in other industries to keep up with user expectations.

The final section, “Changing Priorities, New Directions,” explores issues and directions for the future of academic libraries. Included is an examination of how librarian roles have evolved, with a key feature being an increased requirement for technology skills. Further educational achievements appear to be a trend among academic librarians, posing the question of whether the library degree is enough. In a discussion of library as place, David Lewis asks how students feel when they interact with library spaces, and as academic librarians regularly face renovation projects, whether big or small, he provides important considerations before undertaking one.

With technological advances increasingly enabling education to be conducted at a distance, Debbie Faires explores key topics in provision of library services to remote users. There are many technology and software options today for the academic librarian conducting support at a distance, including chat reference, learning management systems, recording tools, and web conferencing software. This third section includes a chapter by the sole author at a Canadian institution, Brian Owen, covering institutional repositories, open access, and the ways academic librarians can contribute to effective service delivery in these evolving realms. Finally, Ronald Jantz charts a vision of the future by suggesting that today’s academic librarians carve out a portion of their time and workforce to devote to forward-thinking innovations, such as examining implications of artificial intelligence on academic libraries. Enabling a culture of regularly defining and striving toward a desirable future for academic librarians will require self-reflection, commitment, and continual change.

In this book, Todd Gilman has curated and coordinated an expertly written collection of topics essential and relevant to academic librarians. This text would be an excellent choice for LIS academic library courses, new librarians interested in increasing understanding and scope in the field, as well as seasoned librarians looking to get up to speed on emerging issues. *Academic Librarianship Today* is also a valuable choice for addition to academic library collections. Although the scope would benefit from additional Canadian content, its North American context is relevant enough to be both practical and useful for academic librarians in Canada.