implement change and adjust a library’s management structure, or whether it was the merely the only option chosen to be highlighted by the authors.

The bulk of the book looks at the example of two academic libraries that implemented radical organizational change—the University of Arizona Libraries and the University of Pittsburgh Libraries. While the chapter on the University of Arizona Libraries focuses almost exclusively on the barriers to change encountered by the organization and the lessons learned from the experience, the chapters on the University of Pittsburgh examined more closely the environment that led to the changes, the manner in which the changes were brought about, and the benefits of putting the changes into place. More detail about the University of Arizona Libraries’ process, including benefits to the patrons and the university, would have been a useful and welcome addition to this section of the book.

Most useful are the chapters describing organizational development theories that would be beneficial to libraries. This information is especially beneficial to those unfamiliar with these concepts.

Overall, this book is well thought out and presented and is an excellent guide to academic libraries looking to embrace change.—Qiana Johnson, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Shaffner Library, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois


Storytelling can strike fear in the heart of even the most seasoned librarian. Crash Course in Storytelling is a basic manual designed to help the average librarian overcome that fear and become a successful community storyteller. This book persuades readers of the positive impact created by skillful storytelling and reassures them that they can become effective storytellers in their libraries. Practical and specific steps are given to enable the reader to learn basic storytelling skills and avoid some of the common pitfalls. The number of steps is kept to a minimum, keeping the process from seeming intimidating and overwhelming. However, it might leave the unfamiliar storyteller without enough direction to feel comfortable getting started. An informative section on storytelling extras addresses the many possible variations. The authors reassure the reader that everything that can go wrong has happened to even seasoned storytellers. They provide ways to plan recovery from many of the potential disasters so that one can feel more at ease in the storytelling process.

While there are many books that cover storytelling, Crash Course in Storytelling is geared specifically toward busy librarians. It is written and formatted for those who need a quick working plan to begin storytelling. It is well-organized, allowing for quick reference to the details one might need in undertaking the storytelling process. Four appendixes fill in pertinent details to help novice storytellers expand their understanding of storytelling. An extensive set of bibliographies, ranging from “Reliable Collections of Traditional Tales” to “Storytelling Advice, Approaches, Theory, and Stories” gives the reader many other resources to use, from old favorites to new. This up-to-date book will be a great help to beginning storytellers in public libraries, school libraries, and other storytelling venues.—Triffny Wylie, Librarian in the Center for Children’s Services, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma


If you work in a public library with no technical support, do not have a WYSIWYG (“what you see is what you get”) type of editor, and know absolutely nothing about putting a Web page together, then this book might prove helpful. The book’s title is a bit deceptive because there is no discussion of information architecture—the building blocks of organizing and structuring Web sites—or how one might present library services within a Web site. Instead, the book could be called “Crash Course in Basic HTML,” because a mythical public library is only used as an example for learning HTML, and not all aspects of the Web design process are covered. The author provides templates that can be downloaded from his Web site, www.redroselibrary.com, and he refers to them throughout the book, but these, again, are very basic and are intended to be cut, pasted, and heavily modified.

If the reader is interested only in learning how to write clean code that is upward-compatible, meaning the code follows XML (Extensible Markup Language) standards and separates style from content by utilizing basic Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), then this book will meet expectations. Rubenstein does an excellent job of explaining all the techniques used in HTML and points out browser incompatibilities when applicable. However, the book falls short in usefulness because the author fails to acknowledge other tools are available, such as blogs and newsfeeds, that are easier to set up and more functional than the static newsletter page coded in HTML. Overall, this book is well-written, and the examples show the full functionality of HTML, but the book would have been more helpful if it had been published ten years ago.—Rachel E. Vacich, Technology Coordinator, Walker Management Library, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee


How do you get boys of middle school age excited about reading, and where can one find an updated, fresh reading list of the hippest, coolest books around for guys? Kathleen A. Baxter and Marcia Agness Kochel’s Gotcha for Guys! has the answer for any library professional or teacher of middle school boys. Gotcha for Guys! is a continuation of the “Gotcha!” series by Libraries Unlimited from Baxter and