The first part is on the history and development of health sciences librarianship. Chapter one looks at education, professional organizations, and journals needed to enter or support a career in health sciences librarianship along with job opportunities in this field. Chapter two is about the health sciences environment. The US health care system is presented along with discussions on quality, history, professional education in America, and biomedical research. There are a few paragraphs about global health. Chapter three finishes this section by focusing on emerging trends in the field. Evidence-based practice (EBP), active learning, and research collaborations are presented in detail, as they should be. A fourth trend is strategies for adapting new technologies, which I found interesting. The “hype cycle” and minimum viable product (MVP) are very appropriate and relevant to this trend. This chapter reminds health sciences librarians to stay current and offers ideas beneficial to the new librarian as well.

Collection services is the focus of part two. The cycle of developing a collection, identifying patron types and needs, developing policies (uniform resource locators [URLs] are provided for real-life examples), and putting policy into practice are presented in chapter four. In addition, the information on workflows related to physical resources and electronic products is very useful. The topics of statistics, resource trials, journal evaluation, and budget concerns are also examined. Chapter five concentrates on technical services, defined as “acquiring and organizing information resources so that users can find the information they need” (p.16). Cataloging standards, remote data access (RDA), machine readable cataloging (MARC), and online public access catalogs (OPACs) along with authority control and classification are covered. In addition, discovery tools, link resolvers, linked data, and the semantic web are discussed. Chapter six focuses on technology services such as integrated library systems (ILS), proxy servers, websites, e-resources, computers, and printers. The evolution from print to electronic and its impact on health sciences librarians is discussed. I found this chapter particularly valuable as a seasoned librarian. Information about the technology life cycle and process of using technology are interesting. Reading about the methods of connecting with patrons and types of resource serves as a great refresher.

Part three is the longest section of this book. This part’s focus on user services is appropriate as user services function as the main role for the solo librarian and as a vital function in all health sciences libraries. Chapter seven covers reference and information services. Types of library patrons and the value of tracking and evaluating reference services are explained. In addition, “the reference desk” itself and how and where it lives in a library are presented. The difference between general reference services and scheduled in-depth research assistance session is discussed.

Meeting the needs of researchers is the focus of chapter eight. Traditional databases such as CI-NAHL, Cochrane, PubMed, and so on are presented along with a short discussion of Google Scholar. The support of EBP and gray literature is mentioned. How to organize and manage bibliographic citations by and for researchers is detailed as well. Chapter nine is about outreach, which can be internal or external with liaison programs and informationists
who can serve a diverse group of library clients. Additionally, the importance of serving on committees, task forces, and work groups in any health care setting are reviewed. In today’s health care environment, I personally believe this is one of the most important types of outreach for a health sciences librarian. Going to clinicians and teams at their worksites helps increase your value to your parent organization and shows that the library is more than a physical place. The processes of providing and evaluating successful external outreach are outlined.

Chapter ten is about research data management (RDM) services, discussing its definition, the reasons it is needed, compliance, and policies. I found this chapter particularly valuable as in my world, this is a new role. The challenges, functions, skills, competencies, tools, and resources are well presented and have given me new knowledge and tools for this evolving role. Chapter eleven is titled “Introduction to Health Sciences Libraries”; I would have called it something like “Teaching in Health Sciences Libraries.” This chapter is about information literacy, user education, methods of teaching, and different learning types and styles. Chapter twelve is all about access. Specific topics include course reserves, e-reserve systems, interlibrary loan (ILL), OCLC, DOCLINE, consortia, and related tools. The last chapter of this section discusses how to set up, manage, and evaluate consumer health services.

Administration services is the focus of the fourth part of the book. The running of a library, management styles, how the library fits into the organization, and the value of competencies and development are reviewed in chapter fourteen. The authors also talk about evaluation, benchmarking, standards, and accreditation. I feel this chapter covered many different issues that managers or directors will come across in their libraries. Chapter fifteen is about the precious need for space. General information on planning, trends in space utilization, and space needs for teaching and learning are discussed. I think that the coverage on innovative uses of library space for staff work areas and points of service are very relevant in today’s library environment. The last chapter is about the future, with discussion of transforming librarianship, finding new roles in research, providing outreach, and serving as an informationist or a clinical librarian. I found the content about moving out of the physical library but using your library skills and knowledge to be very appropriate and accurate especially for hospital-based librarians.

As a textbook about health sciences librarianship, this book has great depth and breadth of the topics it covers. Being out of library school for almost twenty years, I think this book is also a great reference. This is not a book that you will pick up and read cover to cover; rather, it is a book that you will pull off the shelf to refresh, learn about, or get ideas on specific needs as they arise. I am definitely going to keep this book on the shelf above my desk for quick access. This would also be a great gift for the new librarian in the health sciences field.

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This is a great book. This reviewer gives it a four-star rating. According to Amazon, not many titles are available on this topic (but there should be), which is unfortunate. This book truly fills a need in the library literature. As a library director in small public, academic, corporate, and hospital libraries for forty years, I can only say I wish I had had this book before I made all those mistakes so many years ago. The editor is to be commended for the fine job she did. I think I caught two typos in the entire book. All the writing is of the highest caliber. Clarity is sorely missed in writing these days but not in this book.

The chapter sections are sensible and cover the gamut of the small library experience, but there are too many chapters to list. If you have a small library issue, this book covers it. The book is extremely well researched with the big titles in the field all there at the end of each chapter. Edited works by numerous authors usually have overlap. Although there is some overlap, it is minimal in this book.

Having participated in a library construction project, this reviewer would say that that section of the book is exceptional. If your town, or corporation, or hospital is renovating or thinking of new space for the library, get this book. It would be vital during a construction project.

That being said, the book could be stronger on some of the softer issues of small library manage-