

Book Review:

The Data Librarian's Handbook, by Robin Rice and John Southall, London: Facet Publishing, December 2016, 192p. Paper \$69.52. ISBN: 978-1783300471.

Rice (Data Librarian, EDINA and Data Library) and Southall (Data Librarian, Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford) have produced a concise, wide-ranging introduction to data librarianship. The authors aim to cover the basics of all central areas of the field, from its history to current issues such as data sharing. Data literacy and helping patrons find the right data set to analyze get sufficient attention. The challenging topic of research data management gets two chapters. Included are eight short examples (“vignettes”) discussing experiences with research data management planning, written by other data librarians, which give life to the subject. Each chapter concludes with “Key take-away points” and “Reflective questions,” which help the reader focus on the most essential elements.

Rice and Southall write clearly and even entertainingly. The book is well organized and flows smoothly. Although both authors are from the United Kingdom, the book takes an international approach and is suitable for an international audience. While the shortness of the book (159 pages) limits its detail, its coverage is quite comprehensive. It is highly recommended as a source for all new data librarians and other librarians starting to work with data.

--- **Daniel Edelstein, University of Windsor**

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