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**RANKIN, Carolyn and BROCK, Avril (eds.) *Library Services for Children and Young People: Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Age*. London: Facet. 2012. 224 pages. ISBN-13: 978 1 85604 712 8. £49.95.**

Accessible, informative and inspiring are the words used to describe the aims of this title and are words that should rightly be associated with library services for children and young people. Thankfully, this is a book that does indeed match its inspirations with insightful contributions from librarians, lecturers and researcher's all with many years of experience in the field. Personal experiences are of particular importance in the field of children's library services and give this book an accessible and approachable style whilst retaining an appropriate level of academia.

Children and young people are the bastion of library services. As they grow up they will become the young adult and later adult readers whose practices will shape the way in which libraries develop. For this reason the services with which they are provided at a young age need to appeal both to them and to their parents who will doubtless accompany them. It is not just the library that is of importance however. It is also necessary to consider the book. The books in the library, alongside its many other offerings are of considerable significance. Books and reading have perhaps never been more important than now, in the digital information age. Therefore they need to compete on a level playing field and in many respects libraries can assist with this.

By dividing the book into four sections, firstly looking at 'Policy, People and Partnerships' then 'Reaching Your Audience and Catching the Latest Wave', before going on to consider 'Libraries for Children and Young People' and finally addressing 'Issues for Professional Practice' the title covers all aspects of library services provision and is accessible to all those staff working with children and young people in this context.

In the 21st century, and, as previously mentioned, with the advent of the digital age, it has become perhaps more important than ever to explore the ways in which library and information services can develop and change alongside and with their communities. Crucially, the contributors ensure that in this book they consider both public and school library services, thinking about the way in which both have provided key services to their audience with some case study examples of good practice for the reader to dip into. Having looked into public libraries, school libraries and the way in which they can challenge and develop children's approaches to traditional reading and digital advances, the book then moves on to the experience of the Scottish Information Literacy Project which aims to link services for secondary and tertiary education. This insightful case study is just one excellent example in the book of projects that are happening across the UK.

Part 1 establishes that libraries are successful at engaging their community. Part 2 considers how the staff should to develop this competence and sustain it. Here the importance of a range of adult influences, from librarians to teachers, parents and even politicians is considered. All can help to ensure that libraries engage and

connect, creating children who are technologically competent and guaranteeing that children remain strong readers across all platforms. This is not a small undertaking and will involve investment in terms of both time and money therefore, the authors' stress, working in partnerships and working together is essential. Furthermore, children and young people love to be cool and so the latest trends are significant, once again national projects help with this and case studies presented in the book, along with quotes from the children and young people using these services, aim to highlight the good work being undertaken. Readers should be able to build upon these efforts, using them as examples of good practice to be emulated.

*Library Services for Children and Young People* balances the work of school and public libraries, their approaches to traditional and modern reading methods using both traditional books and modern technologies. A chapter on 'Comics and Other Graphic Media' is an important inclusion, as is a case study on the approach taken in Australia to outreach and marketing. Designs for library services are given some thought; this is important as the visual aspect of services will be a big draw to an audience of young people and finally having looked at how and what to provide for children and young people, the book finally turns its attention to professional issues. A final relevant and insightful chapter looks at children's rights and human rights, highlighting an overlooked issue that is surprisingly relevant to library services.

There is not enough space in this review to go into more detail but I hope that this overview demonstrates that *Library Services for Children and Young People: Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Age* is an approachable and accessible title ideal for senior library workers, children's and school librarians.

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