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**VARNUM, Kenneth J. *The Top Technologies Every Librarian Needs to Know: A LITA Guide*. London: Facet. 2014.**

**144 pages. ISBN 9781783300334. £49.95**

My first question on receiving this book was: who are LITA? The Library and Information Technology Association is who they are, a division of the American Library Association who reach out to the entire library community to promote, develop and aid the use of technology in library and information settings. This slim volume is a relevant and timely collection of suggestions for technology to implement and make use of in a library service. Not only does it consider current technologies, it also makes reference to emerging technology and only looks as far into the future as the next five years. This is of particular relevance for it is significant that technologies change at a fast pace and whilst it is important to embrace them and embed them into services, it is also important to recognize that they will change: some may become obsolete while others will develop. However, for now, we must make use of all that is available in the best and most suitable manner for our services.

Encouragement to be innovative and to look at the trends in technology that impact on libraries and the future of library services is important. We must not be afraid of the developments but bring them into our services, for ourselves and our users. Libraries are about discovery, the discovery of knowledge and without a librarian understanding the technology, the users of the future will be struggling. Digital libraries are augmenting the physical but users still need to be guided as to the most appropriate way to use them. E-book publishing is still, comparatively, in its infancy and its use in libraries still developing but there are more technologies available than this. A fascinating chapter on augmented reality suggests fascinating ways in which public and academic libraries can help their readers take a virtual walk through history for example, suggesting technologies that librarians may wish to consider or at least be aware of their possibilities. Information seas and oceans are discussed in relation to the way in which library users are now able to search an endless selection of materials to meet their needs. Tips are provided on choosing the web service that will work for your needs with jargon explained and screen prints labeled for the uninitiated.

I thought that I was keeping up with trends in technology as they will face libraries; this book has shown me that there is much more out there than anyone of us can realistically keep abreast of and fully understand. In an approachable and reader-friendly slim volume, we are introduced to ways in which we can make our library services bigger and better for the future. An expert is offering their guidance on how we should move forward, what we should move forward with and why. They are untangling the jargon, explaining the need and setting out a new vision for an exciting future in which libraries are ahead of the game and embrace developments in technology for the good of all.

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