
MALLERY, Mary. *Technology disaster response and recovery planning.*

London: Facet. 2015.

120 pages. ISBN 13-978-1-78330-054-9. £49.95

Focused and to the point, this comprehensive book is full of facts, despite its relatively compact size and low page count (about 120 pages).

Presenting the page number in the middle of the page, linked by a line with the chapter title and number, is extremely helpful. Moreover the dimensions of the book are about right and the font type/size is appropriate.

The editor (who has also written the first chapter) brings together a range of top experts for each of the five topics/chapters of the first part of the book. In the second part, one can find two excellent case studies which are followed by the appendices, short contributors' biographies (six plus the editor) and a compact index, which could be improved. The book covers some key topics related to technology disaster response and recovery planning, which is a wide-ranging topic that can't really be covered by any one text book.

The topics covered in part one (Creating the Technology Disaster Response and Recovery Plan) include: 1. What Could Go Wrong? Libraries, Technology, and Murphy's Law - by Mary Mallery; 2. Inventory and Risk Assessment for Digital Collections - by Liz Bishoff and Thomas F. R. Clareson; 3. Disaster planning and risk management with dPlan - by Donia Conn; 4. Disaster Communication: Planning and Executing a Response - by Denise O'Shea; 5. Future Trends: Cloud Computing and Disaster Mitigation - by Marshall Breeding.

The two case studies in part two (Managing Techmageddon: Disaster Mitigation and Lessons Learned) are: 6. The University of Iowa and the Flood of 2008: A Case Study - by Paul A. Soderdahl and 7. Digital Disaster Recovery and Resources in the Wake of Superstorm Sandy: A Case Study - by Thomas F. R. Clareson. To conclude, the Appendixes offer two useful templates: A. Disaster Communication Planning Template and B. Example of a Basic Disaster Communication Plan for a Public Library.

After each chapter the notes and resources lead the reader to identify and explore relevant and helpful sources for further reading. Among a number unique and helpful facts is the ten check points of the 'in framed' table on page 42 "How Ready Is Your Library" (to cope with disasters), and the seven lessons and three observations in Chapter six – the case study of the university of Iowa flood of 2008 – pages 82-87.

The only real criticism, and main suggestion for improvement, is the lack of colour throughout the book (with the exception of the cover), which could be an issue for some readers, for instance those with learning difficulties. In particular the lack of variation from black and white is noticeable in the figures and 'in framed' tables which would be clearer in colour, for example Figure 3.1 on page 25 and the 'in framed' table on page 36. The lack of colour leads to a false impression of outdatedness when reading the book and it would be advisable to consider use of colours in any future editions.

Overall this is an excellent and highly recommended book despite its high price (£49.95 on the published website) which might be partially justifiable due to the quite specialised themes covered. Lastly the language used makes the book accessible for experts and general readers alike.

Ioannis Soilemetzidis
Doctoral Candidate, University of Birmingham
soilemet@hotmail.com