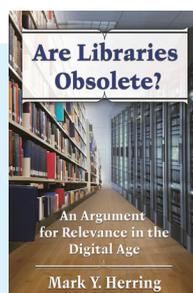


professional media

Herring, Mark Y. **Are Libraries Obsolete? An Argument for Relevance in the Digital Age.** McFarland. 2014. 258p. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780786473564. pap. \$25; ebk. ISBN 9781476615912. PRO MEDIA

In his latest work, Herring (*Fool's Gold*) points out concerns that librarians should heed, lest they find themselves branded as obsolete. Academic librarians have heard students and administrators ask, given the increase in the number of ebooks and Internet access available to so many: Why fund libraries? Herring

makes several valid points for why making available those two services are not the same as providing library services, with particular attention to academic libraries. He substantiates many of the claims first iterated in his 2000 *American Libraries* article, "10 Reasons Why the Internet Is No Substitute for a Library," and even expands his original list using up-to-date research and examples concerning reading, literacy, the consequences of Internet-based



reading, and libraries' role in assisting patrons in their transition to digital access. There is also an analysis of the current environment in which librarians will find suggested steps for keeping alive the discussion on the need for libraries. **VERDICT**

Librarians who wish to do more than just hope that their profession still exists in 20 years will find the articulated arguments for library service and corresponding call to action present in this work vital.—Kendra Auberry, Indian River State Coll. Lib., Port St. Lucie, FL

change to achieve equity for women. She focuses this volume on persistent problems in employment, work/family-life balance, sex and marriage, abortion, poverty, sexual harassment and rape, and women's underrepresentation in political office. Throughout, the author suggests strategies to ameliorate these problems. Few of her proposals are, alas, new. Rhode's agenda reiterates long-standing calls for, among other things, paid leave, publicly subsidized child care, pay equity, access to contraception, better enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination, and a more generous social safety net. Hostility to feminism and to a more expansive role for women in government, as well as the (incorrect) notion that women have already achieved equality, impedes progress, and Rhode wants to see a revived feminist movement to contend with its opponents. **VERDICT** An excellent introduction to the women's movement for the interested layperson.—Cynthia Harrison, George Washington Univ., Washington, DC

PSYCHOLOGY

Leslie, Ian. **Curious: The Desire To Know and Why Your Future Depends on It.** Basic: Perseus. Aug. 2014. 224p. illus. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780465079964. \$26.99; ebk. ISBN 9780465056941. PSYCH

We are all born curious, but why don't we all remain so into adulthood? What has happened in recent times to cause the decline in curiosity? Journalist Leslie (*Born Liars*) writes passionately about why our loss of curiosity is a serious detriment to society. The author argues that those who stay inquisitive will succeed the most in life. Pulling from developmental, behavioral, and educational psychology, Leslie discusses the history and stages of curiosity and how online search engines have made us less curious. He examines inventors and visionaries from centuries ago to the present day and

how they became so successful. The author claims it wasn't luck but a need to fill gaps in information. While answers are so easily accessible through Google, Leslie states that "Google can answer anything you want, but it can't tell you what you ought to be asking." With heavy implications for the future of education, the author makes a strong case for a more inquiry-based approach. **VERDICT** Highly recommended for educators of all kinds. Leslie reaches to the true heart of education—turning students into 21st-century learners by bringing back that curiosity. Also a great read for librarians.—Jill Morningstar, Michigan State Univ. Libs., East Lansing

Levitin, Daniel J. **The Organized Mind: Thinking Straight in the Age of Information Overload.** Dutton. Aug. 2014. 512p. illus. notes. index. ISBN 9780525954187. \$27.95; ebk. ISBN 9780698157224. PSYCH

Advances in computer technology and the rise of the Internet have led to an onslaught of information confronting us each day. Drawing upon the results of psychological research, Levitin (James McGill Professor of Psychology and Behavioral Neuroscience, McGill Univ.; *This Is Your Brain on Music*) explains how the mental processes of attention, working memory, and categorization limit the amount of information that we can take in and remember. By employing practical strategies that work in concert with these mental processes, we can become more organized, make more informed decisions, and increase our efficiency at work, at home, and in our social lives. Levitin illuminates his points with vivid real-world examples such as company management structures, probabilities involved in medical diagnoses and treatments, and organizational strategies used by celebrities, CEOs, and their assistants. Owing to frequent references to current web applications and public

figures, however, this book may soon become outdated. **VERDICT** By learning about how the mind processes information, readers with an interest in the brain will come away with insight into how they can better organize their lengthy to-do lists, overflowing junk drawers, and cluttered schedules. [See Prepub Alert, 2/3/14.]—Katherine G. Akers, Univ. of Michigan Libs., Ann Arbor

★Shenk, Joshua Wolf. **Powers of Two: Finding the Essence of Innovation in Creative Pairs.** Eamon Dolan: Houghton Harcourt. Aug. 2014. 368p. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780544031593. \$28; ebk. ISBN 9780544032026. PSYCH

While many books purport to explain or evoke creativity in individuals, author and essayist Shenk (*Lincoln's Melancholy*) explores the dynamics of creative pairs—how such partnerships are formed, how different types of duos collaborate, and how the relationships sometimes end. He vividly describes such well-known pairs as John Lennon and Paul McCartney, Steve Jobs and Steven Wozniak, Matt Parker and Trey Stone (the creators of *South Park*), and directors Ethan and Joel Coen but also includes people who are usually considered to be individual creators, such as Vincent van Gogh and his brother Theo, and choreographer George Balanchine and dancer Suzanne Farrell. Under tight deadline to finish the book, the author writes in the epilog that he considers himself and his editor Eamon Dolan as a creative pairing, despite living on opposite sides of the country and communicating infrequently. **VERDICT** This wonderful book sheds new light on an overworked topic, and the numerous anecdotes make it a pleasure to read. Anyone with any interest in psychological issues of creativity or in cultural history will tear through it. [See Prepub Alert, 2/24/14.]—Mary Ann Hughes, Shelton, WA