

### books for librarians with a critical edge



#### Questioning Library Neutrality: Essays from Progressive Librarian, edited by Alison Lewis ISBN 978-0977861774. \$18.

Questioning Library Neutrality: Essays from Progressive Librarian presents essays that relate to neutrality in librarianship in a philosophical or practical sense, and sometimes both. They are a selection of essays originally published in Progressive Librarian, the journal of the Progressive Librarians Guild, presented in the chronological order of their appearance there. These essays, some by academics and some by passionate practitioners, offer a set of critiques of the notion of neutrality as it governs professional activity, focusing on the importance of meaningful engagement in the social sphere.



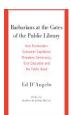
#### Responsible Librarianship: Library Policies for Unreliable Systems, by David Bade ISBN 978-0977861767. \$22

The three papers in this volume were written in the wake of a single policy decision at the Library of Congress: the decision to cease the practice of distinguishing and collating series through the use of distinctive headings maintained in an authority file. These papers examine library policies and organizational structures in light of the literature of ergonomics, high reliability organizations, joint cognitive systems and integrational linguistics. Bade argues that many policies and structures have been designed and implemented on the basis of assumptions about technical possibilities, ignoring entirely the political dimensions of local determination of goals and purposes as well as the lessons from ergonomics, such as the recognition that people are the primary agents of reliability in all technical systems.



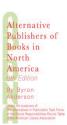
#### Mrs. Magavero: A History Based on the Life of an Academic Librarian, by Jane Brodsky Fitzpatrick ISBN 978-0977861750. \$15.

Filomena Magavero was an academic librarian at SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx, New York, where she contended with a level of sexism that defined professional life for female librarians in the mid 20th century. This book is the story of an "everywoman" of academic libraries and a library history from the perspective of a woman in her position at the time. Included are a very useful literature review on women in mid-20th century librarianship and an oral history interview with Mrs. Magavero.



#### Barbarians at the Gates of the Public Library: How Postmodern Consumer Capitalism Threatens Democracy, Civil Education and the Public Good, by Ed D'Angelo ISBN 978-0977861712. \$18.

Barbarians at the Gates of the Public Library is a philosophical and historical analysis of how the rise of consumerism has led to the decline of the original mission of public libraries to sustain and promote democracy through civic education. Through a reading of historical figures such as Plato, Helvetius, Rousseau, and John Stuart Mill, the book shows how democracy and even capitalism were originally believed to depend upon the moral and political education that public libraries could provide. But as capitalism developed in the 20th century it evolved into a postmodern consumerism that replaced democracy with consumerism and education with entertainment. Public libraries have mistakenly tried to remain relevant by shadowing the rise of consumerism, but have instead contributed to the rise of a new barbarism and the decline of democracy.



#### Alternative Publishers of Books in North America, 6th Edition, compiled and edited by Byron Anderson ISBN 978-0977861729. \$18.

This directory is a unique reference tool that gathers information on significant alternative presses and places it under one cover. The presses profiled were culled from hundreds of small, active independent presses, building on the effort of the previous five editions of the directory. In total, one will find 126 U.S. presses, nineteen Canadian, and eighteen international presses having either a North American address or distributor. Thirty-three presses are new to this edition. The sense of the word "alternative" here indicates a connection to some part of the political Left. The information in this book attempts to educate and bring more awareness of alternative presses to librarians and others interested in these publications.



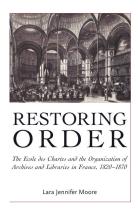
#### Library Daylight: Tracings of Modern Librarianship, 1874-1922, edited by Rory Litwin ISBN 978-0977861743. \$25

Library Daylight is an eclectic collection of 36 articles about libraries and librarianship published between 1874 and 1922. These items, most of which will be new even to those most well-versed in American library history, cover topics that are hotly discussed today: library education, women's issues, library technology, the image of librarians, copyright, the tension between libraries as educational institutions and libraries as popular centers, the nature of library service, the public sphere, library PR, librarians and political activism, and visions of the future. The sources of these articles include early ALA conference proceedings, early issues of Library Journal and other library periodicals, daily newspapers, and popular magazines.



#### Library Juice Concentrate, edited and mostly written by Rory Litwin ISBN 978-0977861736. \$25.

Library Juice Concentrate is a compilation of the best of Library Juice, an e-zine published by Rory Litwin between 1998 and 2005 that dealt with foundational questions of librarianship during a period of rapid change. Library Juice served as the record for the "Library Left" during this period, including its veterans and newcomers, while at the same time offering original reflections on traditional questions. The aim of the essays in Library Juice Concentrate is to provoke original thought and to encourage newcomers in the field to participate in professional discourse with confidence and with attention to the intellectual and political struggles of the past.



# Restoring Order: The Ecole des Chartes and the Organization of Archives and Libraries in France, 1820-1870,

by Lara Moore. ISBN 978-0977861798. \$32. Litwin Books.

According to most histories of French archives and libraries, the nineteenth century was a period of slow but steady recovery from the trauma of the revolutionary era. In contrast, Moore argues that the organization of archives and libraries in nineteenth-century France was neither steady nor progressive. By following the development of the Ecole des Chartes, the state school for archivists and librarians, Moore shows that conceptions of "order" changed dramatically from one decade to the next. More important, she argues that these changing notions of "order" were directly connected to contemporary shifts in state politics. Since each new political regime had its own conceptions of both national history and public knowledge, each one worked to "restore order" in a different way.

Litwin Books specializes in scholarly books about media, communication, libraries, and related historical topics, and through its Library Juice Press imprint, books that examine theoretical and practical issues in librarianship from a critical perspective, for an audience of professional librarians and students of library science.

We welcome book proposals and manuscripts within our editorial scope.

Litwin Books, LLC PO Box 3320 Duluth, MN 55803

Please contact us to request review copies or sample copies for course syllabi.



#### Forthcoming from Library Juice Press:

Information Liberation: Writings on the Politics of Information and Librarianship, by Shiraz Durrani

The Library Takes Up The Case: Generating Library Power, by Mikael Böök and Anders Ericson

Speaking of Information: The Library Juice Quotation Book, compiled by Rory Litwin and edited by Martin Wallace

So You Want Be a Librarian, by Lauren Pressley

http://libraryjuicepress.com inquiries@libraryjuicepress.com

## CLitwin Books, LLC

#### **Forthcoming from Litwin Books:**

Eugène Morel: Pioneer of Public Libraries in France, by Gaëtan Benoît

Library of Walls: The Library of Congress and the Contradictions of Information Society, by Samuel Gerald Collins

Forty Years in Struggle: The Memoirs of a Jewish Anarchist, by Chaim Leib Weinberg

Slow Reading, by John Miedema

From Polders to Postmodernism: A History of Archival Theory, by John Ridener

Ambient Media, by Cyan Meeks

Prophets of the Fourth Estate: Broadsides by Press Critics of the Progressive Era, edited by Robert Jensen and Amy Reynolds

http://litwinbooks.com/inquiries@litwinbooks.com