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Libraries and Digital Learning Environments is an exploration of directions for services and resources of academic libraries wishing to ride the wave of digital technology adoption in the learning and research community.

The coverage of the text is ambitious, ranging from a shifting user education (social media, digital literacy), to changing reading habits, physical space redevelopment and scholarly communication. Each of these is placed in the digital realm with an explanation of how it can benefit from emergent digital technologies. A practical context is provided in many of the chapters for the incorporation of these technologies for existing services, and professional development of librarians in this changing environment is included.

Open access publishing models provide interesting reading around research impacts, and many of the authors have identified other useful opportunities for academic library focus, such as data curation. There is an acknowledgement of the potential of hype surrounding digital environments which grounds the text.

The pace of digital change is this book’s Achilles’ heel. Some of the themes have already been dealt with in other forums, or are already well established in many libraries, such as online subject guides. Where specific products are mentioned they risk rapidly dating the text and it becoming irrelevant. More focus could have been placed on mobile technologies, although again, this is a fast moving area. The strength of the text lies in the encouragement of libraries to adapt to change rather than the focus of the specific adaptation itself.

Library management will gain the most from this broad spectrum book, however practising librarians will also find chapters relating to their particular areas of expertise to be of interest. The authors are themselves a mix of academics, practising librarians and senior library managers, and they each display experience and interest in their particular topic.

This is a good overview of recent digital developments and impacts upon libraries, tempered by a rapidly changing environment. The reader is reminded that the change that academic libraries currently face is not entirely new; academic libraries have been facing similar challenges for decades, albeit in different forms. This is a book of promise, of libraries embracing change.

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