Advances in Library Administration and Organization (Review)

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This volume covers a variety of significant and timely topics in library administration and organization. The first half of the book contains six essays that deal with the "access versus ownership" issue, diffusion of innovation and planning in public libraries, the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), the future of the academic library, library storage, and Slavic and East-European librarianship in the post-Soviet era. The second half of the book is a collection of six papers from the Fourth I.T. Littleton Seminar. These papers explore the application of new technologies in libraries ranging from the virtual collection, to image transmission via Ariel, to a digitized document transmission project at North Carolina State University.

The primary value of this book is that it provides coverage of a broad range of issues of interest to library administrators, particularly in the areas of technology, planning, and personnel. The opening essay by Sheila S. Intner, "Ownership or Access? A Study of Collection Development Decision Making in Libraries," is an empirical study that attempts to provide collection development librarians with generalizations and normative guidelines for informing future decision makers in the use of access technology in libraries. This article sets up a dual general theme or motif for the entire book which is a concern with access to knowledge or information, and the need for libraries to leverage moderately scarce resources. Thus, from the perspective of the disabled, we have a discussion of the ADA and the implications of this landmark civil rights legislation for library accessibility, while the essay "Library Storage: Achieving Systematic Consignments" provides guidelines for developing cost-effective strategies for library storage. Accessibility and fiscal resourcefulness are the main challenges that confront library planners and administrators. This volume will provide valuable insights and assistance.—Stephen Paul Foster, Central Michigan University Libraries, Park Library, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859.